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NO. 7797 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1990/RAJAB 23, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILS

## Aoun softens

### Truce holds; call of talks

ADMA BASE, Lebanon, Feb 18, (Agencies): Christian militiamen checked corpses and suspect shells in a captured village today as their foe General Michel Aoun called for talks and Beirut's civilians savoured a rare calm.

The 12th ceasefire in 19 days of inter-Christian war held through the day and many civilians attended church to pray for followed by ground assault.

But a 10-hour offensive by elite units of the LF, backed with tank, artillery and rocket fire, brought the militia its first victory. At dawn, scores of army commandos abandoned the Adma Base as a ceasefire took hold and moved some 15 km (nine miles) away.

"The operation was very delicate and dangerous. Had anything gone wrong, there would have been a disaster," said Chaker Abu Slaiman, a member of a church mediation committee escorting the commandos during the seven-hour evacuation.

The commando and helicopter base 20 km (12 miles) north of Beirut, was the only army-held pocket in LF territory. Inside the perimeter on a pine-clad hilltop village overlooking the port of Jounieh, LF militiamen drove a captured army tank, waving their flags and pointing to the army commando emblem.

"Several of Aoun's armoured vehicles still smouldered and I saw bodies lying on the shell-cratered battleground.

"Is it a civilian or a soldier," asked one LF militiaman peering at one corpse lying in front of a small tank and a jeep which had collided after being hit by rocket-propelled grenades.

Only close examination showed that beneath the blood and mud were camouflage trousers, army boots and a flack jacket.

"The fighting was very fierce. Look at what is left... this is bad, bad, bad," said an LF fighter who took part in the final push to Adma.

Red and white sentry boxes were shredded by shell and machine-gun fire. Huge shell craters pitted the base main road and the helicopter pad.

Military sources said 12 army casualties were taken from the base. The LF-run Voice of Lebanon radio said the army lost 30 killed and 50 wounded.

Security sources said at least 17 LF militiamen were killed and 25 wounded during the hand-to-hand battles.

Witnesses said army troops had to pull out after losing control of six villages on a hill overlooking the base.

Witnesses and security sources said Aoun's men were on top alert around the general's headquarters, the presidential palace in the suburb of Baabda, fearing an attack.

the more than 610 people who have been killed and 2,200 wounded.

In a radio statement, Aoun said: "I hope the irregular situation in the liberated area will be solved through dialogue... I am working for such a solution."

Until last night, Aoun's army had slowly asserted its mastery in saturation shelling and rocket attacks on selected LF strongholds

## India grounds Airbus 320



Two women, unable to identify the body of a relative, weep during a mass cremation for the victims of Airbus crash in Bangalore. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Confidence lost

### 'Snags' on other craft

NEW DELHI, Feb 18, (Reuters): India will ground its 14 remaining A320 Airbus planes from tomorrow because of public fears about their safety, Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammad Khan said today.

A two-month-old Airbus crashed, killing 90 people, in Bangalore, south India last week.

Indian news agencies quoted Khan as saying that since Wednesday's crash, there had been four reports of technical snags with other Indian Airlines Airbus which had shaken public confidence.

Khan said earlier the planes would not be grounded before preliminary findings of an inquiry into the crash.

A team of Indian officials left for Canada today carrying the "black box" data recorder that could clear up the mystery of why an Indian Airlines Airbus A320 crashed.

The inquiry was expected to focus on whether pilot or computer error caused the high-tech plane's crash in fine weather about one km (less than a mile) short of the runway at Bangalore airport.

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## Cory slams opportunists

President Corazon Aquino blasted "fence-sitters and opportunists" in the armed forces on Sunday and said mutineers threatening to mount another coup attempt must be arrested.

Aquino made the remarks in a nationally televised speech at the Philippine military academy, where many of the leaders who mounted an almost-successful coup attempt last December had graduated in the 1970's.

Aquino survived an assassination attempt at the same academy in 1987 when a bomb exploded prematurely at a parade ground before she was to speak, killing four people.

Picture shows Aquino reviews troops of graduating cadets during rites at the military academy. (Reuter wirephoto)

Details Page 5

## Nepal protests claim 4 lives

KATHMANDU, Feb 18, (Reuters): Police battled with thousands of anti-government students and political activists in central Kathmandu today and at least four people were killed in clashes in the Nepalese countryside.

Banned political parties allied in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) defied an official crackdown to launch the first demonstrations in the capital against the Himalayan kingdom's non-party political system for 11 years.

Police baton-charged and tear-gassed thousands of protesters who repeatedly regrouped, waving outlawed party flags and chanting: "We want democracy."

At least four people were killed when other protesters broke out in towns and villages.

Witnesses said two students and a policeman died in a gun battle in Chitwan, a village 150 km (95 miles) southwest of Kathmandu, after activists burnt a government forestry vehicle which police were using.

State-run Radio Nepal, quoting Interior Ministry sources, said a policeman was killed when demonstrators buried a large stone at his head in Hetanda, 100 km (60 miles) south of Kathmandu.

The radio said police had been injured by stone-throwers in two other towns and listed another 10 localities where it said the situation was now under control — implying there had been protests earlier.

Political parties, banned for 30 years and now banded together in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), had deliberately chosen democracy day to launch their campaign of demonstrations and strikes.

The government acknowledges detaining over 500 people in advance of the campaign and there has been growing concern among foreign aid donors about human rights in Nepal.

Earlier, the government had put the top three leaders of the Congress Party — Ganesh Man Singh, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and G.P. Koirala — under house arrest and detained Sabana Pradhan, chairwoman of the United Left Front.

"We will continue today and we will continue to fight," Krishna Ram Varma of the Left Front, who was wounded in a confrontation, told reporters. "We will continue our struggle until we achieve our goal."

The Press Trust of India said Ganesh Man Singh, supreme leader of the banned Nepali Congress Party which has spearheaded the MRD, smuggled out a message from house arrest accusing the government of tyranny and repression.

The crackdown "will add fuel to the fire and spark the movement for democracy," the agency quoted him as saying.

Some 15,000 people joined an official procession, which normally attracts about 50,000.

## Talks leave India satisfied, Dhaka unsure

DHAKA, Feb 18, (UPI): Indian External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral ended a three-day official visit today by proclaiming himself "happy and satisfied," although his Bangladesh counterparts remained sceptical of progress on key issues.

"I am going back a very happy and satisfied man as we have built a great mileage of friendship," Gujral told a news conference after meeting with President Hussain Muhammad Ershad. "Bangladesh and India set on a right course of co-operation and friendship."

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud expressed similar sentiments, telling the news conference, "the international atmosphere has changed, the cold war is buried."

"We want to translate it to our region to usher in an era of peace, co-operation and friendship," Mahmud said. But a Bangladesh government official who refused to be identified said progress fell short of the high hopes raised by the Indian minister's visit, particularly concerning New Delhi's military involvement in Sri Lanka and in Kashmir.

Gujral, asked by reporters if India would abide by a UN resolution calling for a plebiscite among Kashmir residents to determine its future, said New Delhi was committed only to following the Simla agreement signed by India and Pakistan in 1972.

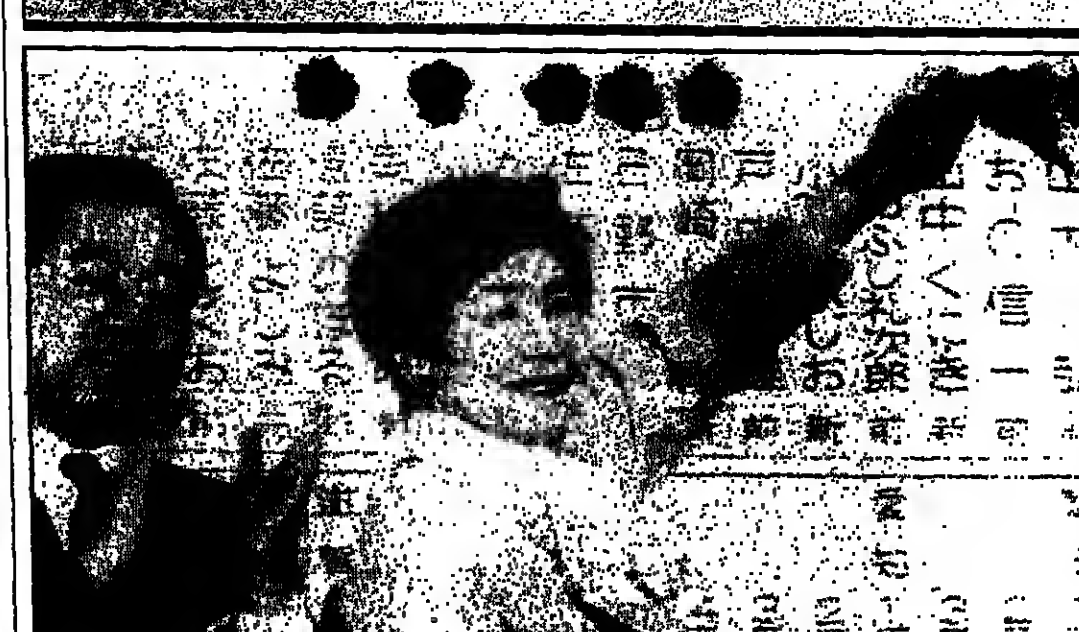
Mahmud, asked if Bangladesh doubted commitments India made during the talks, said: "Ultimately the results will prove the intentions."



## Savagery at its worst

An old Christian woman cries in a battered street of Ain Al Roummaneh area in devastated East Beirut as she looks for her two children who were lost during the savage artillery bombardment between the two Christian warring armies. Witnesses said that Ain Al Roummaneh a stronghold of Lebanese Forces militia and now gained by troops loyal to General Michel Aoun have been completely destroyed. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Japan's hall of shame re-elected



## LDP victorious

JAPAN'S ruling Liberal Democrats swept to victory in Sunday's general election as voters turned a blind eye to the party's scandalous past and endorsed the prospect of stable economic growth over the uncertain future offered by the opposition.

The Japanese voters re-elected the very men whose bribery and sex scandals sent the nation into political

turmoil last year.

The LDP was predicted to win a majority of at least 257 seats and is likely to achieve a stable majority of 271 seats. Japan Socialist Party chairwoman Takako Doi putting victory roses (above) on the names of LDP candidates who won. (Reuter wirephoto)

Details Page 6

## Protesters storm Romanian govt headquarters

BUCHAREST, Feb 18, (AP): Demonstrators yelling "down with communism" smashed their way into Romania's provisional government headquarters today in the most violent protest since December's revolution.

The crowd also shouted for interim President Ion Iliescu to resign.

Rows of soldiers in green uniforms initially held back dozens of protesters in a central hallway of the building. The building has been used by Prime Minister Petre Roman since the revolution that toppled communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in

December last year.

More than 1,000 people in front of the building cheered as protesters smashed the windows and glass doors with rocks and iron rods. The protesters then climbed through windows to open the doors.

The demonstrators broke in after soldiers hauled away several protesters who had scaled the building and were waving Romanian flags from a balcony.

More than 200 demonstrators got into the apparently deserted building and wandered through the hallways. The soldiers, who first held them back, did nothing to stop them.

Roman is on a visit to France. Iliescu has moved his office to the old grand national assembly building several miles (kilometers) away.

Protesters told the crowd that one demonstrator had been shot, prompting cries of "assassins, murderers."

It was not immediately clear if anyone was injured or where the detained protesters were taken.

An army colonel in the government building said authorities had issued no order to shoot at the demonstrators.

## Qurain housing area may explode

A LOCAL daily has claimed that it has in its possession documented proof of a potential disaster about to befall the residents of the Qurain Housing Project.

The paper said that part of the land used in the project has to the past 20 years been a dumping ground for human and industrial waste. It further elaborated that no outlets were provided for the resulting gases to escape and when gases like methane exceeds seven to 15 per cent in an enclosed space, these may explode. The daily cited incidents in parts of Europe and America where violent explosions have taken place.

See Page 9

## Weather

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State of sea: moderate to rough

High water: 7:25 am, 5:09 pm

Low water: 12:35 am, 11:15 noon

Sunrise: 6:25 am

Sunset: 5:40 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 25°C 77°F

Ahmed: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 18°C 64°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 11°C 52°F

Ahmed: 13°C 55°F

Falaka: 13°C 55°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 20°C 68°F

Ahmed: 17°C 63°F

Falaka: 17°C 63°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 85 per cent

Ahmed: 84 per cent

Falaka: 82 per cent

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## Tamil peace accord likely

MADRAS, India, Feb 18, (Reuters): The prospects for peace between rival Tamil groups in Sri Lanka looked stronger today after two days of talks in Madras, the chief minister of India's Tamil Nadu state said.

Muthuvel Karunanidhi told reporters there were "favourable indications" of a consensus after he met the six rival Sri Lankan factions. "I hope to have good news for you on Feb 22 and that a solution to the problem would be found," Karunanidhi said.

He said he had made suggestions on how the rivals could agree to a ceasefire and fresh elections to Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated northeastern province. He refused to give details.

New Delhi has often said it feared a bloodbath among the rival factions when the last Indian troops leave Sri Lanka at the end of March.

India fears that the toughest and most militant of the factions, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), would try to take power by force in the northeast once the army leaves.

Nearly 1,200 Indian soldiers have died, mostly fighting the LTTE, since the army was sent to Sri Lanka in 1987 under an accord with Colombo to help end a bloody Tamil rebellion.

The group was represented at the Madras talks by Anton Balasingham, whose negotiations with the Colombo government last year produced an LTTE pledge to take up politics in favour of guerrilla war.

Elections a year ago, boycotted by the LTTE, brought the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) to power in the province.

## Lanka Army detains IPS correspondent

COLOMBO, Feb 18, (AP): The Sri Lankan army today detained the Colombo correspondent of the Inter Press Service international news agency for questioning.

Richard De Zoysa, 33, was abducted at gunpoint from his home in the Welikade suburb of the capital last morning by six men, according to police officials who spoke on condition of not being identified.

Police denied at the time he had been arrested, and it was suspected he had been abducted by Sinhalese militants fighting to overthrow the government.

Members of De Zoysa's family said today Maj. Gen. Cecil Waidyaratna told them the correspondent was being held at an army detention camp. Waidyaratna is army commander for the Colombo area.

It was not clear why De Zoysa was being questioned by the army. Inter Press Service is headquartered in Rome and has correspondents in several world capitals.

De Zoysa, a Sinhalese, had written several articles on the Sinhalese uprising for local newspapers.

# India grounds all A320s

### More technical snags reported: IA schedule disrupted

By Thomas Abraham  
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 18: The Indian government today decided to ground all the Airbus A320s in the fleet of Indian Airlines, the country's domestic carrier as a sequel to the Bangalore aircraft which claimed 90 lives.

As a logical consequence, the government also announced that no fresh deliveries of the aircraft would be taken till a high-powered committee of experts assessed their air worthiness.

The decision, which followed day-long meetings between Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammad Khan and senior officers, has also been prompted by as many as four cases of technical snags reported on A320s in the three days after the Bangalore tragedy. Similar problems had also been reported during the past few months since the new aircraft, with its fly-by-wire technology was inducted into Indian Airlines.

Today's announcement is expected to have serious ramifications for Airbus Industrie, which has firm orders for nearly 520 such aircraft from different airlines around the world of which it has delivered only about 80 so far.

India was amongst the earliest countries to go in for the A320s ordering as many as 31 in a controversial decision in 1985. Airbus Industrie has delivered 15 A320s to India so far and four more were expected to arrive by the end of March.

The Bangalore crash was the first involving the A320 on a commercial flight. This aircraft made a jinxed debut when it crashed during a demonstration flight at the Paris Airshow in June 1988. The pilot had then bailed out to safety. That incident had nearly written off the aircraft even before it had entered the market.

All the 320s received by IA were fitted with the V-5000 Pratt Whitney engine about which serious doubts have also been raised.

The government's decision to ground the A320s means that the domestic air schedules in India will be seriously disrupted with IA forced to operate with only 11 Airbus A-300 and 28 Boeing 737s. The airlines is working out a curtailed schedule which will be announced soon. The government is appointing a high-level committee to go into all aspects of the air worthiness of the A320s. The committee will also examine issues like whether IA has adequate ground facilities to operate such sophisticated aircraft and whether it has enough trained personnel. The committee will be asked to submit an interim report within a week, after which today's decision will be reviewed.

Khan explained that the decision was taken as a matter of "abundant caution, mainly to restore confidence among the travelling public." He said regular travellers would have serious doubts about the safety of the aircraft after the Bangalore crash and the other incidents that followed. He also pointed out that the cause of the Bangalore accident was yet to be established.

Asked whether there would be a review of the entire Rs2,000 crore deal, Khan said that was a separate issue which could be considered after the report of the court of enquiry into the Bangalore crash was available in about four months.

Meanwhile, the contents of the cockpit voice recorder of the ill-fated aircraft have been analysed here in Delhi, but details have not been made public.

The digital flight data recorder has been sent to Canada for decoding and its readout is expected in four to five days.

Khan said both have to be read together to come to any tentative conclusion.

The A320s had attracted a lot of criticism, mainly relating to the lack of corresponding ground facilities in India and the ability of pilots to handle the computerised system.

At a press conference in Bangalore after the crash, Khan was grilled by newsmen who wanted to know why the fleet was not being grounded immediately.



Security tightened

Pakistani authorities tightened security at the men's hockey World Cup today after anti-India protesters twice interrupted a match played by India on Saturday in Lahore.

Officials of the International Hockey Federation (IHF) had threatened to call off the tournament if such incidents continued, and later held an emergency meeting with the players.

Local organising committees. Students protesting against India's crackdown on a Muslim independence campaign in its Kashmir state threw stones and sticks towards the Indian players as they lost 5-3 to the Netherlands on Saturday.

Picture shows police arresting an anti-Indian protester. (Reuters wirephoto)



An Indian pilotless target aircraft and other defence military hardware on display at the Asian Aerospace exhibition in Singapore. (Reuters wirephoto)

## 1,753 to contest Bangla elections

DHAKA, Feb 18, (Reuters): More than 1,700 candidates filed nominations to contest Bangladesh rural elections next month.

The election commission said 1,753 contestants submitted applications yesterday for 453 posts of sub-district chairmen to be elected between March 13 and 24.

The dates for election to seven other posts in Bandarban district in Chittagong Hill tracts will be announced later, the commission said.

The government decided to stagger the coming polls over 11 days so police could keep a tighter grip, officials said. More than 150 people were killed in violence during the sub-district polls in 1985.

The rural elections will be fought on a non-party basis but all major political parties have fielded their supporters as candidates.

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, accused by his opponents of changing power through a fraudulent 1988 election, has promised that the sub-district polls would be clean and honest.

Observers say the opposition might change their opinion about Ershad if he could ensure free and fair elections.

Yesterday he named Justice Sultan Hossein Khan as the country's new chief election commissioner.

## Terrorist extradition to dominate Saarc talks in Colombo

COLOMBO, Feb 18, (Kuna): The extradition of terrorists and fugitive offenders among South Asian countries will figure as the main topic when delegates from South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (Saarc) meet to discuss terrorism in Sri Lanka's capital Colombo on Feb 19, 1990, a senior official of the island's Foreign Ministry said today.

The session is to be held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International conference hall and will be inaugurated by Bernard Tillekeratne, the secretary

to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Saarc comprises Sri Lanka, Nepal, the Maldives, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan and they are all signatories to the Saarc convention on the suppression of terrorism held in 1987. They are all in the process of enacting necessary legislation to implement the decisions taken at the Kathmandu convention.

The Foreign Ministry official said there is already in existence necessary administrative capability to prevent terrorists from seeking refuge

in Saarc countries. According to the Kathmandu convention on the suppression of terrorism, the offences include such as the unlawful seizure of aircraft and acts against the safety of civil aviation, crimes against diplomats, offences within the scope of any convention among Saarc countries which obligate extradition or prosecution.

Acts which perpetuate indiscriminate violence or aiding, abetting or counselling such offences are also regarded as acts of violence.



An engine of the destroyed Indian Airlines A-320 Airbus is fitted by crane near the Bangalore airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Lahore boost to Benazir PPP victory

LAHORE, Feb 18, (Agencies): Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's People's Party (PPP) retained its seat in the National Assembly today by defeating the candidate of rival Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) by a margin in by-election for constituency NA-99.

The ruling party candidate Arshad Ghazali defeated his rival Chaudhry Zulfikar by 3,200 votes, according to unofficial results declared late in the night.

At least four people, including two policemen, were injured by gunfire today, witnesses said. Gunfire rang out at a polling station and voting was temporarily suspended. Young men also hurled stones and bricks as Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan

visited the site but he was unhurt, they added.

"Get out of here if you want your safety," one youth shouted at press reporters. One photographer's camera was damaged.

Spokesmen for the PPP blamed the shooting on rival activists and said the opposition-controlled provincial government rigged the vote. But local officials denied the charge.

The campaign for the National Assembly (lower house) seat, fell vacant by the death of a PPP deputy, had become a matter of prestige battle for Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif and Ghulam Mustafa Khar, a close associate of Benazir.

## Rushdie edict is irreversible

### Demonstrators demand death

TEHRAN, Feb 18, (Agencies): Iranian demonstrators demanded today that British author Salman Rushdie be killed and Iran's top judge, in an apparent rebuff for President Rafsanjani, called the death edict irreversible.

Witnesses said about 4,000 demonstrators chanting "Death to Rushdie" held a 90-minute rally in the street outside the building which used to house the British embassy.

Diplomatic ties were cut last March over the late Ayatollah Khomeini's order that Rushdie be killed for blaspheming Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses."

"This is not an opinion or a fatwa (religious decree) on which another ruler or judge could voice his views," judiciary chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said on Tehran radio.

"This is a decree, and like all other judicial issues and sentences, it is unalterable and must be enacted," Yazdi said in the broadcast monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Friday described the decree, issued a year ago this month, as the view of one expert which could be debated by others.

But Yazdi said on today: "From a legal and judicial viewpoint, we categorically declare that the edict was... a judicial and authoritative decree, the implementation of which is obligatory."

The main speaker at today's rally, organised by hardline groups, demanded that publication of "The Satanic Verses" should halt.

"We should adopt specific policies if publication continues," said Mohammad Ali Ansari, a close associate of Khomeini's son Ahmad.

Yazdi said he was certain the decree would be carried out. "As the official responsible for the Islamic Republic of Iran's judicial power, I declare to all Muslims around the world... that this is a decree issued by the founder of the Islamic republic, his eminence the imam... and the implementation of any judicial decree is obligatory," Yazdi said.

He warned Muslims that those who possess the means to kill Rushdie but do not do so are sinners in the eyes of God.

Meanwhile a Tehran newspaper condemned a call by 248 British Members of Parliament for Iran's expulsion from the United Nations.

The English-language Tehran Times said the call to expel Iran from the United Nations was an attempt "to put pressure on Iran through a non-government organisation."

Condemning Iran, the British parliament said in a statement that "this regime understands no language except that of force" and cited Rushdie's death order as evidence that "terrorism is in inherent characteristic of the ruling regime in Iran."

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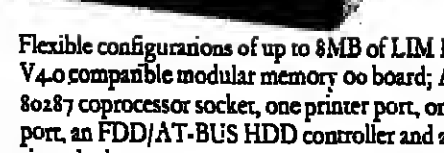
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## Anglo-Irish eccentric breed

## Dying out like dinosaurs

DUBLIN, Feb 18, (Reuters): Lord Walscourt used to walk up and down his Irish castle, wearing only a sword and a hat, and the maids could scuttle out of the way in time.

Henry Briscoe of Tynagh, who eagerly demanded his "droit de seigneur" from his tenants, never dared throw stone at any child in his castle on fear it might be his.

Lord Strathclyde, convinced that God is a woman, built a temple to Isis in his castle where he wears a Pharaoh-like hat and priestesses dance to the strains of Mahler at hallowe'en.

The Anglo-Irish are a dying breed of hardy eccentrics in a land where many view them as dinosaurs. For, after 700 years of often oppressive rule by Britain, the landed gentry became hated symbols of the conquering colonists.

Many of their stately homes were burned down in the early 1920s as Ireland fought for independence. When the torch didn't get them, then the damp did. Names like Ballybeg and Ballyvaughan have been richly earned.

Only about 30 major houses now survive in the Irish Republic where before 1914 there were 2,500 families who each owned 1,000 acres (400 hectares) or more.

Irish-born author and journalist Ann Morrow, who has chronicled the lives of British royalty and Indian nobles, decided to interview the dinosaurs before they vanished. The result is her affectionate new book "Picnic in a Foreign Land: The Eccentric Lives of the Anglo-Irish."

Irish playwright Brendan Behan once defined the

Anglo-Irishman as "a Protestant on a horse" for hunting is one of their most abiding passions and a reason the horse-mad Irish may forgive them for much.

Morrow's fading aristocrats live lives of strenuous leisure in crumbling stately homes. Some castles are opened to the public or turned into hotels. Others give up the fight against the damp and retire to the gate lodge.

Gone are the days when these elegant Georgian Mansions would ring to the sound of parties that ran for weeks with guests supping on oysters, smoked salmon and champagne.

English nannies would listen carefully to their little charges for any sign of an Irish brogue in their voices.

They produced sons like the Duke of Wellington and writers like Samuel Beckett and George Bernard Shaw. They introduced cricket to Ireland and befriended Russian aristocrats. Their wives became the mistresses of kings.

But where are they now? Thomas Pakenham gloomily told Morrow: "The big house in Ireland may be extinct in 20 years; they once used to be turned into lunatic asylums."

Randall Arthur Henry Plunkett, almost an aristocratic caricature with snuff on his tie and lapels, asks Morrow: the fact that we are still here — is it due to tenacity or stupidity? I don't know.

Mary Anglo-Irish were given their lands by a grateful British crown in an Ireland where Catholics were systematically dispossessed.

But they forcefully reject Irish criticism of them as

"Blow Ins" and "West Brits." Plunkett told Morrow "we go back to Noah" though one of his ancestors summed up the Anglo-Irish nicely: "We are like dogs on a tennis court, despised by both sides."

About 200 stately homes were burned down in the turbulent early 1920s. Lady Jennifer Bernard, whose family lost a priceless collection of Titian, Da Vinci and Rubens old masters, wistfully told Morrow "I think it is more fun imagining how it must have been."

When the Irish Republican Army was about to torch one old lady's house, the petrol bomber hastily told her to save her handbag from the hall table.

Helen Lefroy used to sweep around Longford trying to convert Catholic to Protestantism. Confronting one straggly band that listened politely, the spirited evangelist told them "I lay in the arms of Jesus last night."

Back came a voice from the crowd "how are ye fixed for tonight then?"

Lady Cadogan once berated an Irishman at Blarney castle for beating his donkey, telling him "didn't our Lord ride a donkey into Jerusalem and that is why he has a cross on his back, so you are committing a double sin — sacrilege and cruelty."

The man listened courteously to her tirade but then argued with a typical twist of Irish wit. "What your ladyship says may well be true but if our Lord rode this donkey into Jerusalem and didn't hear him, he wouldn't be there yet."

## Aspirin may help prevent migraine

ORLANDO, Florida, Feb 18, (UPI): Aspirin, long in use as a remedy after the onset of headaches, may also prevent migraines in some patients if taken daily, a study released indicated.

The research, involving 2,271 American male physicians who suffer from migraine headaches, showed those who took one tablet daily suffered 20 per cent fewer migraine headaches than those who did not. As well, those who took aspirin said the attacks were shorter and less intense, said Julie Buring, an epidemiologist at Harvard University.

"You've got 2.7 million people in the United States who suffer from migraine every year, so if you reduce that by even 20 per cent, you're really talking about a tremendous number of people who would be affected," she said.

Migraine is a vascular disease that occurs when blood vessels in the brain constrict, then dilate and pain begins. Typically, it is treated with drugs designed to either relieve pain or constrict blood vessels.

"It is commonly accepted that it is better to try to prevent the migraine than to treat it once it occurs," said Buring, who presented her research at an American heart association conference on stroke and cerebral vascular disease.

"The other prophylactic drugs that are usually recommended for migraine are very powerful drugs. So, until now, there really hasn't been a safe drug that has been effective," she said.

Buring said it was not clear why aspirin helped prevent migraine, but researchers believe it keeps blood platelets from clumping before the onset of migraine headaches.

The findings reported by Buring and other scientists at Brigham and women's hospital and Harvard medical school piggybacks on a study that found aspirin cuts the risk of a first heart attack in men by 44 per cent.

Researchers studied the responses given by those same men on whether they suffered from migraines.

## Contraceptive choice limited

WASHINGTON, Feb 18, (AP): A committee of the national research council said that the limited choice of contraceptives in the United States leads to increased abortions and voluntary sterilization.

An NRC report, called "developing new contraceptives," said government policies led to a narrow range of contraceptive options for Americans and the methods now available "leave major gaps in the ability of people to control fertility safely, effectively and in culturally acceptable ways."

The report said that 95 per cent of the 54 million sexually active women between the ages 15 and 44 use contraceptives at some point in their lives, and that about 20 per cent of this number have been voluntarily sterilized.



Brown (left) and Tobias (right) display blueprints of their plans. (Reuters wirephoto)

## \$10m to hunt treasure

## Canada Oak Island mystery

MONTREAL, Feb 18, (Reuters): A huckster's hooty of doubloons has figured in the dreams of thousands of intrigued by the mystery of Canada's Oak Island. After almost two centuries the mystery may soon be solved.

A Montreal-based consortium of investors is planning to raise \$10 million to unearth the secrets under the island of Nova Scotia and cap one of the most enigmatic, enduring and costly treasure hunts in history.

"It's a terrific mystery. There's archaeology, history and treasure seeking," David Tobias, president of the Triton Alliance Consortium, told Reuters.

Fascinating "It is one of the most fascinating historic sites in the new world after the arrival of the Europeans," Mendel Peterson, former curator of archaeology at Washington's Smithsonian Institution, said of the small island, which has a labyrinth of man-made tunnels and chambers beneath its surface.

This spring, if Triton can raise enough money, it will sink a steel and concrete shaft 60 metres (200 feet) into the island to answer questions that have perplexed countless treasure seekers and cost at least six men their lives.

The legend was born in 1795 when three young men rowed out to explore the wooden island, 45 miles southwest of Halifax, and stumbled across a depression in the earth that turned out to be a filled-in shaft.

Over the years engineers,

geologists and treasure hunters — including a future US president, Franklin Roosevelt — mounted numerous expeditions, without success, drilling holes deep into the island in Mahone Bay, which got its name from a ship used by pirates.

At the centre of the mystery is a shaft known as the Money Pit where, according to various theories, lies the body of English sea captain Sir Francis Drake, France's Bacon manuscripts credited to Shakespeare, the treasure trove of Blackbeard or Captain Kidd, or even the jewel of Queen Marie Antoinette of France.

Tobias' favourite theory is the one concerning Drake, who explored the Atlantic coast for Queen Elizabeth I of England and preyed on Spanish shipping.

Peterson thinks a government-funded expedition was most likely because of the organization, resources and manpower needed to construct the island's tunnel complex, which included a flooding system designed to stop people digging deeper than 27 metres (90 feet).

Risk When log platforms, which acted as barriers during construction, were removed, seawater flooded the tunnels, which had underwater entrances screened with coconut-fibre mats to stop them from being filled with silt.

"There must be something valuable (there) to go to that much trouble," Peterson said.

Triton plans to use high-

volume pumps to control the flooding, which thwarted most previous attempts.

Other evidence of human activity on the island includes brass, bits of china, a pair of 300-year-old Spanish scissors and pieces of wood carbon-dated to the year 1575.

And as if the plot were not thick enough, Triton, with the use of a television camera in a preliminary search, uncovered a large chest and what appears to be a severed human hand down the shaft.

## Adventure

Tobias, who made his first expedition to Oak Island 23 years ago, was sidetracked in his treasure quest by a 1987 recession that made investors skittish about backing risky ventures.

This time, however, the 65-year-old treasure hunter is confident that Oak Island is luring many eager to gamble on an adventure.

"It's as much of a risk as Las Vegas but a whole lot more interesting," said Billie Furlow, a would-be investor from Arkansas. "It always intrigued me about what was down there. I do think there is a treasure. I do."

Tobias, a former packaging company president who first learnt of Oak Island on a cereal box as a boy, promises to get to the bottom of the matter.

"It's going to reach a conclusion," he said. "It could be another King Tut's tomb or Troy. There could be a lot of money. Or there could be nothing. That's the excitement."

NEW YORK: A divorcing couple, who amicably split their fortune of a Rolls Royce, Mercedes and post-penthouse on Fifth Avenue, ended a 10-month court fight over their single battle point: their pet poodle.

Justice Leonard Cohen at state Supreme Court in Manhattan Thursday awarded custody of little Whooper to the estranged wife Mary Ellen Meehan, an art poster dealer.

Meehan told the judge the 9-pound (4 kg) toy poodle "sleeps on my pillow every night" and is a "total joy in my life."

In the divorce, Meehan also claimed the couple's '86 Rolls Royce and '71 Mercedes. She also got their post-penthouse, which was featured in the September issue of *Town and Country*, showing Meehan standing on a terrace and snuggling, what else, her dog.

Meehan and her husband married in 1984 and split up in 1987. Their divorce was sailing through court when suddenly, last March, the husband demanded joint custody of the dog — or \$45,000.

Meehan said the demand "attempted extortion."

In his ruling awarding complete custody to Meehan, the judge noted that the divorcing couple disagreed on everything about the animal.

Meehan said the dog was a toy poodle named Whooper. Her estranged husband M. John Starke Jr., an attorney, said it was a miniature poodle named Red.

She said "John was as rough with Whooper as he was with me. She still cringes when I call men approach."

Starke said he was kind and has fond memories of the times "I fed and paper-trained Red." (UPI)

BUCKLAND, Massachusetts: A high school's 22-year-old tradition of a father-son banquet is getting a makeover — mothers are now welcome.

The change came about after a quarterback at Mohawk Trail Regional High School said he would boycott the event, which for years was sponsored by the friends of Mohawk football, unless his mother could attend.

"A lot of people supporting us through hard times were mothers, but they couldn't come to our banquet," quarterback Owa Brammstein said. "It was blatant discrimination and just plain wrong." (AP)

ROSWELL, Georgia: The challenge: how to save as many trees as possible while clearing underbrush for a \$13 million municipal complex.

The problem: heavy machinery used to clear land often damages root systems, which can kill trees.

The solution: Betsy the mule. "The mule doesn't make near the mess that a tractor does," said Wayne Mahry, the subcontractor responsible for clearing the site.

Her borrowed Betsy from a Cherokee county sawmill where the animal usually works to haul sled loads of underbrush from the building site to a shredder at the edge of the property. (AP)

MONTRELLLO, California: First Lady Barbara Bush held accolades for California's adult literacy campaign by a father who now reads to his children and a man who's reading his Bible for the first time.

"I think it's wonderful what you've done," Mrs Bush told organisers and tutors. She spent an hour Wednesday at the Los Angeles County Library in suburban Montebello, east of downtown Los Angeles.

"Now I can write a letter to my wife," said Chris Norton, 26. "I've come a long way in this programme."

Now, I can read the newspaper. "I'm not sure reading the newspaper is so great," Mrs Bush quipped. (AP)

GAY HEAD, Massachusetts: Wampanoag Indians and the Wampanoag Indians were nearing an agreement to end a 10-year struggle over beachfront property on Martha's Vineyard, officials said.

Under the agreement, the Indians would sell Onassis the land in return for money and another tract, said a clerk in Dukes County probate court.

According to Wampanoag legend, Chief Moshup and his wife, Squam, are buried in the disputed land, a stretch of 264 feet of coastal property. (AP)

AIKEN, South Carolina: People are clamouring for eight "power" puppies from a schnauzer owned by US Senator Strom Thurmond, South Carolina Republican, and fathered by a schnauzer belonging to Senator Robert Dole, Kansas Republican, and Labor Secretary Elizabeth Hensford Dole.

Thurmond's wife Nancy, said the Doles will get the pick of the black-and-brown pups and the others likely will go to people in Thurmond's hometown of Aiken.

"A lot of people want them, and we are going to give them away," said Mrs Thurmond.

The mother, Chelsea Marie, is a miniature schnauzer, and the father is Leader, a schnauzer with suspect lineage. Leader was rescued from a shelter when Dole was the majority leader.

The Doles are known as the Washington power couple, so we called Leader the power dog," Mrs Thurmond said.

Leader spent three weeks at the Thurmond home last fall. (AP)

## PEOPLE AND PLACES



US jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie performs at the Latin Jazz Festival in Havana Feb 17 at the Cultural House. Musicians from several countries take part in this event. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Clot dissolver may help stop strokes

NEW YORK, Feb 18, (Reuters): A drug that opens clogged arteries shows promise in stopping strokes before permanent brain damage occurs, two pilot studies released yesterday said.

Dr Michael Pessin, a neurologist at Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, who led one of the studies, said the drug was effective in breaking up blood clots, but sometimes caused bleeding in the brain. Results, however, were encouraging.

"We are optimistic that this is a potential treatment for a devastating kind of stroke for which there is no proven

treatment," Pessin said in a telephone interview from Orlando, Florida, where he presented the study at a medical conference.

Two small pilot studies were designed to establish the dosage of the drug, Tissue Plasminogen Activator, or tPA, that can open clogged arteries without causing severe bleeding.

Strokes are usually caused by fatty sediment clogging arteries and starving the brain of blood and oxygen. Even a brief interruption of blood supply can kill off vital brain cells and cause paralysis or other disabilities.

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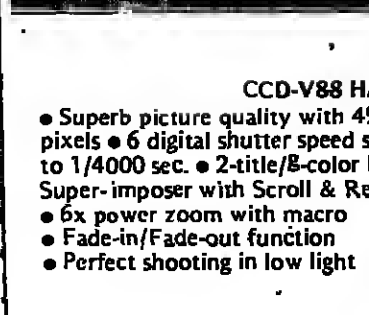
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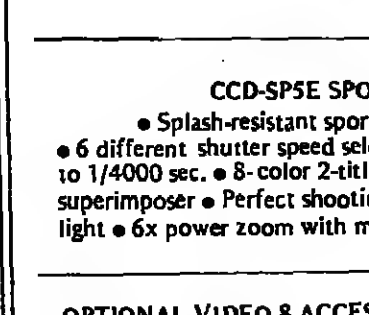
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# Carter asked Noriega to quit

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb 18, (AP): Former US President Jimmy Carter said yesterday that he tried to persuade Panamanian ruler Manuel Noriega to step down after that country's May presidential election, which was widely considered fraudulent.

Carter, who served as an official election observer, tried to negotiate with Noriega on May 8, a day after the election, said Robert Pastor, who was Carter's national security adviser on Latin America from 1977 to 1981.

US troops invaded Panama Dec 20, Noriega surrendered and was brought to Florida to stand trial on cocaine trafficking charges. "I negotiated with Noriega through an intermediary all through that day, and I tried to convince him (Noriega) could be a hero, that all of his problems would be over," Carter told the peace prize forum at Augsburg College.

"I had the authority — this is the first time I've ever said this publicly — to tell Noriega, 'You can stay on as commander in chief until September (1989), when the new president takes over. You will not be extradited to the United States. You can stay in Panama if you wish, after you step down as commander in chief,'" Carter recalled.

"I think he considered this very carefully. About 2 o'clock Monday afternoon (May 8), it became apparent to me that Noriega decided to steal the election. He refused to communicate with me any more," Carter said.

Carter left yesterday's conference, which was attended by an estimated 3,400 college students and others, without saying who had given him the authority to negotiate with Noriega.

Pastor, director of the Latino American programme at the Carter Centre at Emory University, was reached last night at his home in Georgia and declined to say who gave Carter permission to negotiate with Noriega.

Noriega, who held ultimate power in Panama as military commander, is accused of trying to steal the election for his hand-picked candidate. International observers said the opposition really won by a 3-1 margin, but Noriega annulled the results.

Through tabulations made by the Roman Catholic church, Pastor said he and Carter determined early the day after the election that the opposition had beaten Noriega's candidate. He and Carter tried to convince several senior military officials and subsequently Noriega to arrange a meeting, Pastor said.

Defence attorneys for Manuel Noriega said yesterday they arranged for an immediate visit to Geneva, Switzerland, in hopes Red Cross and United Nations officials can help free the deposed Panamanian strongman from a US court's jurisdiction on drug charges.

Frank Rubino said he and co-counsel Steven Kollie were scheduled to meet with the officials in an attempt to help Noriega. Prisoner of War status under the Geneva Convention of 1949 to elude criminal prosecution before US district judge William Hoeveler.

# A bizarre murder trial in US

NEVADA, Iowa, Feb 18, (AP): Strangulation, decapitation, cocaine dealing, greed and a teen-ager's ghoulish rap song are elements in a bizarre murder trial that has pitted brother against brother.

Ruben Deases, 21, turned 18, is charged with first-degree murder in the killing of Jennifer Anjo Gardner, 21, a sister of the same name. A third brother, Johnny, 16, is the state's key witness.

Four young women have testified that Ruben bragged about the May 28 killing after his arrest and even made up rap songs about it.

One such song included the lines, "She thought she was cool, and I was a fool. And now she's dead and I'm ahead," said Jack Leinen, a former youth services worker at the Des Moines detention centre where Ruben was held.

Ms Gardner, 20, was the girlfriend of a fourth Deases brother, Eustaquio, 23, a cocaine dealer with whom she shared a one-bedroom apartment in Ames, a college town north of Des Moines in central Iowa.

Called by prosecutors to testify on Friday, Eustaquio lunged across the defence lawyers' table at Ruben, throwing punches and snarling curses. Officers had to pull the brothers apart.

At the time of the death, Edward and Ruben Deases also were living in the apartment. Johnny, then 15, was visiting for the weekend from Boys Town, the Nebraska home for troubled youth where Eustaquio met Ms Gardner years earlier.

# Fierce fighting in San Salvador suburbs

SAN SALVADOR, Feb 18, (Reuters): Fighting broke out between government troops and leftist rebels in three northern suburbs of the capital last night, authorities said, backing out the city as helicopters strafed the areas with bullets.

At least two military helicopters could be seen circling the combat zones, and machine-gun fire indicated they were strafing presumed rebel positions. The sounds of fighting appeared to subside soon after the helicopters appeared.

Bursts of machine-gun fire and the thump of explosions could be heard in the capital, starting from about 11 pm (0500 GMT), when a loud blast was followed immediately by a power outage.

A government emergency official contacted by telephone said the fighting was centred around the neighbourhoods of San Antonio, Abad, San Ramon and San Luis at the foot of the San Salvador volcano that overlooks the capital.

He said an early blast temporarily caused a power failure over much of the city. Lights came on again around midnight. During the fighting, which lasted for 30 minutes, the sky was lit with flares lobbed by the army to illuminate combat sites.



Gacha's hoard

Colombia's army displayed on Saturday the gold bars and millions of dollars found at ranches that belonged to a deceased drug lord whose total wealth uncovered so far exceeds the army's annual budget.

Brigadier-General Ramon Eduardo Nieves Uscategui told a news conference the total wealth of deceased drug lord Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha uncovered by the army since last November exceeds 16 billion Colombian pesos (almost \$36 million).

"It is an exorbitant sum if you consider that it is more than the annual budget of the army," said Nieves Uscategui, who said the army's annual budget last year was around 12 billion pesos (almost \$27 million).

Gacha, a leader of the notorious Medellin cartel drugs smuggling ring, was killed by Colombian police in a guerrilla on December 15.

Soldiers carrying machine rifles guarded 160 one-kilo gold bars, which bore the stamp of the Union Bank of Switzerland, and millions of dollars stashed in yellow plastic containers displayed at the headquarters of the army's 13th brigade in Bogota. (Reuters wirephoto)

# UN at war with drugs

Special session tomorrow

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 18, (AP): A UN special session opens Tuesday to focus on plans to fight the drug war on all fronts: cutting supplies, reducing demand and exposing money-laundering schemes that aid traffickers.

But while nations want to fight the drug trade, gaining the resources to do so will be a heavy concern at the UN General Assembly's four-day special session.

"The funds that we have at our disposal are extremely limited in relation to the problem," said Margaret Antsee, director-general of the UN office in Vienna and co-ordinator of UN drug programmes. "In the area of drugs, we are being asked to do much more with less."

The illicit drug trade worldwide brings in an estimated \$500 billion annually, making it the second only to the income of the arms trade, Ms Antsee said. The United Nations has about \$4 million a year to fight drug-related problems, she added.

"As people have often pointed out, that is probably less than the cost of a suitcase full of heroin at any airport in Europe," she said. Six session delegates expect to conclude with a global drug-fighting plan, a declaration of commitment to the campaign, and measures to enhance the UN's role in efforts. UN officials and diplomats say.

The illicit drug trade and social problems linked to narcotics abuse plague nations rich and poor, large and small. While there is general agreement that a global attack is needed to confront the mounting problems, members of the 159-member world body plan to stress differing approaches and concerns.

The United States will press for other countries, particularly in Europe, to contribute more money for the international offensive against illegal narcotics. US officials see the session as an important follow-up to the drug summit last week in Colombia. They also plan to stress that the drug scourge is not limited to the United States and Latin American countries.

Colombia, under siege by

powerful drug cartels and crippled by economic woes, seeks preferential treatment in the global marketplace so it can continue its anti-drug fight and encourage farmers to switch to producing legal crops.

Cuba wants to ensure its sovereignty is not violated by heightened law enforcement measures on drug trafficking.

The Cuban-operated freighter Hermann was fired on and hit at least twice on Jan 31 by a US Coast Guard cutter that had requested to search it for drugs. The freighter's captain refused the Gulf of Mexico search and finally reached safety in Mexican waters.

"Cuba and hopefully other countries will press for international law to be followed and the sovereignty of nations to be respected so these are not violated under the protection of fighting narcotics trafficking," said Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, Cuba's ambassador to the United Nations.

Missouri Sherman-Peter, UN ambassador from the Bahamas, said, "We as member states all have our own particular aspect of the problem that affects us most."

But she said countries must be willing to address all aspects of the problem to develop an effective, co-ordinated approach to deal with it.

"We would hate to see ourselves undertaking extensive law enforcement activities outside the context of what is being done with control of supply and control of demand," the Bahamas ambassador said.

A coherent strategy to deal with the drug problem will look at all aspects of the problem and have it working in unison so that we can achieve the greatest degree of success in this war against drugs."

Last week, the presidents of the United States, Colombia, Bolivia and Peru signed a communique in Colombia, vowing closer co-ordination in the drug fight.

The communique calls for a world conference against illicit drug trafficking in 1991 and a "high-level" Latin American follow up in six months.

# Mudslides kill 3 in California

Georgia floods force 1,000 to evacuate: Alabama rivers overflow

WASHINGTON, Feb 18, (AP): Wind and rain triggered mudslides in California and doused crews cleaning up an oil spill, and emergency officials toured north Georgia to assess damage from floods that left two dead and forced evacuations of more than 1,000.

Rivers across Alabama also swelled out of their banks yesterday, covering farmland and threatening some homes after two days of torrential rain that was blamed for one drowning death. Later yesterday, President George Bush declared six central Alabama counties a disaster area.

Carl Suchocki, a spokesman for the federal emergency management agency, said the declaration made individuals eligible for federal assistance for damages from several violent storms that began Feb 3.

In southern California, tons of mud and large rocks rolled onto Malibu Canyon road, forcing the highway

patrol to close the narrow, twisting road from the ocean to the Ventura freeway.

In Huntington Beach, some 470 workers in yellow rain slickers and white hard hats spent 12-hour shifts in the rain cleaning up oil washed ashore from the Feb 7 spill from the tanker American Trader.

Wind and waves knocked apart a boom blocking Newport harbour, and boat operators struggled in rough seas to install temporary booms, said Sgt. Andy Gomis of the Newport Beach police department.

Northern Californians got pelted by rain, snow and hail yesterday as an Arctic storm left about 200,000 homes powerless.

Water levels began dropping in two Georgia towns hard-hit by floods, but weather forecasters warned of more flooding through today as rivers crest. More rain was expected in some areas.

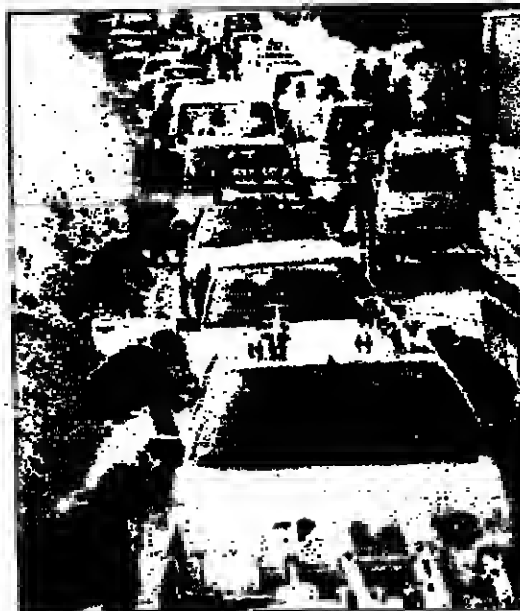
Police in the Atlanta suburb of Smyrna yesterday found the body of Lawrence Devoe, 69, in a car in the flooded driveway of the Oakdale Moose Lodge.

Joe Crowe, 43, drowned Friday in Trion after he was swept away by flood waters when his car stalled.

The flooding followed thunderstorms that dumped up to 12 inches (a third of a metre) of rain in some parts of north Georgia, pushing rivers and creeks over their banks.

About 550 people fled their homes in Fannin county after the Toccoa river was over its banks. In Trion, authorities said as many as 1,000 people evacuated after rains pushed the Chattooga river out of its banks and over a dam.

Extensive flooding of Alabama's lowlands was reported all along the Coosa, Black Warrior and Tallapoosa rivers.



Holiday-goers are stuck in traffic jams on their way to Valdres ski resort Feb 17.

# Cuban communists to consider reforms

Fourth party congress called for next year

MEXICO CITY, Feb 18, (Agencies): Cuba's hardline Communist Party could consider reforms at a fourth party congress called for next year.

Cuba has remained one of the communist world's staunchest Stalinist holdouts and has criticised the democratic reforms that have swept out communist leaders in Eastern Europe over the past year.

An official Cuban news agency dispatch yesterday was the first indication that Cuba is willing to consider some change. However, the Prensa Latina report said Cuban communists had reaffirmed their

dedication to "revolutionary principles" and had cited a need to strengthen Cuba's defence.

The US State Department in Washington had no independent knowledge of the developments and could not comment, said an official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Communist Party central committee said Friday that on March 15 it would announce the date of next year's party congress, Prensa Latina reported in a dispatch monitored in Mexico City.

"The members of the high body studied an analysis made by the



Ortega supporters rally

Supporters of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega carry a coffin representing the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO) during a march through Boaco 60 miles northeast of Managua Feb 16. The UNO's presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro, is Ortega's main opposition in elections scheduled for Feb 25. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Colombian kidnappers tell terms

BOGOTA, Feb 18, (UPI): The leftist guerrilla group that kidnapped three Americans to protest President Bush's visit to Cartagena outlined a proposal to Colombian and US officials for the release of two of the hostages, El Tiempo reported Saturday.

The account in the national daily newspaper said the leftist National Liberation Army issued two communiques outlining its proposal to the families of abducted Americans David Leslie Kent and James Arthur Dooley, grabbed in separate incidents near Medellin earlier this week.

The rebels demanded the formation of a special commission made up of representatives from the Antioquia state government, the US embassy, the Colombian attorney general office, the Red Cross, human rights groups, journalists and family members of the captives.

The US embassy in Bogota could not immediately be reached for comment, though it is the stated policy of the US government not to negotiate with kidnappers.

Heavily armed guerrillas kidnapped American businessman Donnelly, 62, at his ranch house south of Medellin, 160 miles (260 km) northwest of Bogota, Monday night, and followed by grabbing American schoolteacher Kent, 40, in Medellin early Tuesday morning.

The Liberation Army, considered the most dangerous leftist band in Colombia, announced they would not hurt the captives, and said they kidnapped the Americans to protest President Bush's visit to Cartagena for the anti-drug summit.

The rebels, who launched a nationwide offensive this January with attacks on police and army patrols and small towns around the country, also reportedly abducted American Catholic priest Francisco Antonio Amico Ferrari as he drove to mass Thursday morning in Cali, 200 miles (320 km) southwest of the capital.

# Tension mounts as polls near

Ortega, Godoy exchange threats

MANAGUA, Feb 18, (AP): The opposition, government and rebel guerrillas are exchanging threats of vengeance and accusations of cheating and planning violence as Sunday's elections draw near.

The campaign had been relatively tranquil since a Dec 10 opposition rally turned into a bloody clash, but now the tensions are showing as the Feb 25 vote approaches and the result remains uncertain.

The tone of the campaign darkened as opposition vice presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy said the Sandinistas would be forced to pay for their past misdeeds and President Daniel Ortega responded in kind. US-supported Contra guerrillas accused the government of planning an armed offensive on election day; the government said 2,000 Contras were preparing to disrupt the voting.

Both sides denied they planned any violence but said they wouldn't hesitate to respond if provoked.

Ortega praised US President George Bush for comments the Nicaraguans understand to mean the United States will not invade Nicaragua.

"I congratulate Bush because he is acting in a pragmatic, reasonable manner and is not committing the stupidities of (former President) Ronald Reagan," Ortega said at a Friday campaign rally.

In an interview with the newspaper USA Today, Bush was quoted as discounting the possibility of an invasion of Nicaragua like the December invasion of Panama.

Managua residents assessed the situation and advised each other to stock up on food, water and candles in case of trouble after election day.

"You never know," said one middle-aged woman who did not want

political bureau about fundamental problems that should be tackled by the fourth party congress, that need to be debated and adopted," Prensa Latina said, quoting Cuba's official Communist Party daily Granma.

"At Friday's meeting, the committee promised to improve results in the process of correcting the sphere of economic and social development, such as in the political conscience of the country," it said.

"The council proposed a study of the government structure to improve its functioning," Prensa Latina said.

"There is agreement that conditions have matured enough to tackle in practical and concrete terms as to perfect the political system in the country," it added.

Despite indicating a willingness to consider reforms, the dispatch said the Cuban government remains committed to its fundamental policies.

"Analysing these realities in light of the situation of socialism on the world level, the meeting concluded that if Cuba has been able to maintain itself despite certain errors, it was due to our sticking to a revolutionary policy," Prensa Latina said.

"It should remain clear that this critical analysis will not question Cuba's principles and will discuss how to make more perfect a United Leninist Party based on democratic centralism," it said.

Prensa Latina apparently referred to the US invasion of Panama in December as a reason to maintain its policies.

"Facing the crisis of socialism and the aggressive euphoria of American imperialism, we need to continue strengthening our defences and preparing the people to resist and conquer any aggression," it said.

It is necessary to analyse the immediate and long-term goals of the revolution. We will follow the light of our principles without ever responding to external pressures," the dispatch said.

The news agency said the central committee reaffirmed its support for President Fidel Castro, who came to power in 1959.

Castro repeatedly has rejected the reforms undertaken in Eastern Europe. On Jan 28 he declared that Cuba would stick to orthodox communism even if Moscow cuts off its \$5 billion in annual aid.

"The (Cuban) revolution will not back down one millimetre not even if it is totally blockaded by the United States or if the Soviet Union totally cuts its supplies," he said.

Castro also said he would brook no political liberalisation and rejected a petition for recognition by an opposition party based in the United States.

# Train derailment causes explosion

EMHOUSE, Texas, Feb 18, (AP): Firefighters fearing further explosions allowed a fire to burn itself out after a freight train carrying hazardous materials derailed near this small northeast Texas town.

Nobody was reported injured in the yesterday morning accident, said Mike Cox, spokesman for the state department of public safety. He said the derailment of 24 cars caused "quite an explosion." The cause wasn't immediately known.

# Reagan testimony in-camera finalised

LOS ANGELES, Feb 18, (AP): Former US president Ronald Reagan spent a second day in court Saturday, testifying about the Iran-Contra affair that marred the final two years of his presidency.

Reagan, flanked by secret service agents, emerged from a federal courtroom Saturday afternoon and headed down a back stairwell after completing approximately eight hours of videotaped testimony over two days.

Reagan, who had entered the downtown federal courthouse smiling and waving earlier in the day, smiled broadly as his limousine pulled out of the courthouse parking garage. As he has before, Reagan ignored reporters' questions.

Reagan testified before US district judge Harold Greene in connection with the trial of his former National Security Adviser, John Poindexter.

Poindexter is accused of concealing his former aide Oliver North's assistance to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels and lying about a 1985 shipment of Hawk missiles to Iran.

No comment

The Iran-Contra affair was the biggest scandal to hit the US capital since a break-in at the Democratic national headquarters escalated into the collapse of Richard Nixon's presidency.

Poindexter declined comment as he climbed into a taxi after the session, but answered "no" when asked if he would be returning to the courthouse for more testimony.

"Testimony is finished. That's all I can tell you," said his lawyer, Richard Becker.

Later, Reagan spokesman Mark Weinberg issued a news release saying the former president had co-operated and hadn't asserted executive privilege, or his right to keep secret the workings of an executive. Reagan had argued that his participation in the trial raised the risk that national security would be compromised.

"Since he first learned of the Iran-Contra matter and immediately told the American people about it, president Reagan has co-operated fully with all of the attendant investigative and judicial proceedings," the statement read.

Fair

"I think he was very fair in testimony," Becker said.

Reagan was allowed to give his videotaped depositions at a courtroom near his Bel-Air area home, rather than in Washington, where the proceedings against Poindexter are to begin March 5.

Security was especially rigorous for the extraordinary two-day session. Federal marshals and secret service agents kept the media some 40 feet (12 metres) away from Reagan as he entered and left the courtroom Friday. Reporters were allowed only a bit closer Saturday.

Although the deposition-taking was closed to the public, the judge said the videotapes would be released within a few days after editing of issues deemed to involve national security.

Over the two days, the former president answered 134 questions about the failed arms-for-hostages deal.

The questions were drawn from 183 submitted to the court by Becker, who was allowed follow-up questions if necessary. However, the judge prohibited Poindexter's attorney from raising additional questions on new subjects.

Poindexter sought the testimony to bolster his contention that his secret activities had been authorized by Reagan.

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## Experts warn of storms in States

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida, Feb 18, (AP) — The severe tropical weather systems of the past two weeks are expected to continue in the Atlantic Ocean, the director of the US National Hurricane Center warned.

"What we've seen in 1989 and 1990 are indications of the future, indeed stronger and more frequent hurricanes are coming," Bob Sheets said Friday at a conference on beach preservation in St. Petersburg.

The past two Atlantic hurricane seasons produced five storms with winds of more than 130 mph (210 kph), the greatest number of severe hurricanes since the 1960s. The worst was Gilbert, the "storm of the century" that devastated Jamaica in 1988 and had the lowest barometric pressure ever recorded for an Atlantic hurricane.

Hurricane Hugo, which battered the South Carolina coast last year, was the costliest storm in US history. At some point in their development, both storms reached maximum category 5 strength, eye-storm winds of more than 155 mph (250 kph).

Researchers found a parallel between the moisture levels of West Africa, where many of the strongest hurricanes are born, and the frequency of tropical storms, Sheets said.

After several years of drought, moisture levels are again rising. The result, Sheets said, may be an increase in the size and frequency of hurricanes.

Despite the enormous threat, he said, emergency planners have done little to prepare for the worst — when residents of coastal communities are unable to flee approaching storms because roads or bridges are blocked.

Sheets urged planners to give more thought to vertical evacuation, the controversial idea of sheltering refugees in high-rise buildings. New Orleans, for example, is developing plans to use downtown hotels as shelters because they would be under 18 feet (5.5 m) of water in a major storm.

Developers could be required to construct certain areas of their projects as "refuges of last resort," Sheets said.

Sheets said vertical evacuation would solve the problem of trying to evacuate large populations on short notice. He said it is virtually impossible to give three days notice.

"I just don't think it's morally or legally responsible to say, 'Look, you're trapped, we're sorry, but you're on your own,'" Sheets said.

Scientists from around the globe have had their chance to review and comment on 15,000 pages of research from the most comprehensive study of climate ever conducted.

The challenge now, participants said, is to take the individual reports and pull them together in an integrated document to provide planners with a yardstick for gauging the impact of policy decisions.

"We need to come back to a universal," said James Mahoney, the director of the national acid precipitation programme.

About 700 scientists from 35 nations on Friday finished a week-long meeting held to review preliminary reports compiled in a \$300-million study by Mahoney's programme.

"The sense of development in the science... has been to eliminate the two extreme views about acid rain effects," Mahoney said.

"There was once a time when there were no effects that were really important and nothing is documented — the other extreme was that we have an absolute disaster and we're turning up the forests and the lakes," he said.

Mahoney said the project is the largest study of acid rain ever conducted. The scientists reviewed 26 draft studies compiled over 10 years.

Environmental pollution is causing "significant damage" to the health of millions of Chinese, an international conference on China's environment concluded Saturday.

The conference, organised by the Chinese government and the UN development programme, warned that hazardous wastes are contaminating drinking water, food and fish, air pollution is far in excess of international standards and water resources are fast being depleted.

The 44 Chinese and 14 foreign experts at the five-day conference, which ended Saturday, called for "urgent action" to strengthen regulations and penalties, improve factory efficiency and take steps to better manage the environment.

Deng Na, director-general of the social development department in the state science and technology commission and the daughter of senior leader Deng Xiaoping, said in a glowing statement that "significant damage is now occurring to the health of both urban and rural residents mainly due to economic constraints and rapid economic development."

The European parliament rejected an independent environmental protection agency for the European Economic Community arguing the agency, as proposed by the EEC Commission, lacks sufficient powers.

# Manila rife with rumours of yet another coup

Residents are roused from sleep every night as APCs rumble through: people ask when

MANILA, Feb 18, (UPI) — At night, residents are roused from sleep as troops in full combat gear deploy through the streets and motorists are stopped at military checkpoints.

The troop movements are dismissed as nothing more than "coup drills," but rumours are rampant about yet another uprising as the nation marks the fourth anniversary Feb 22-25 of the people power revolution that gave Corazon Aquino the presidency.

"Everyone thinks it's inevitable," said Gerardo Urbina, president of the Manila Stock Exchange.

"The question being asked these days is no longer are we going to have a coup but when we're going to have it," said Urbina.

An air of uncertainty hangs over the nation, which is still reeling from the shock of the Dec 1-9 coup attempt in which US air cover was needed to save loyal forces of the housewife-turned-president from defeat.

The stock exchanges are in the doldrums. Hotels are reporting occupancy rates as low as 30 per cent. Growth targets are being scaled down from the 5.7 per cent posted last year. Inflation is running in the double digits and officials are talking of getting an insurance cover from the World Bank for foreign investments.

Aquino is battling for survival, armed with emergency powers that mainly help her deal with the economic impact of the December uprising in which 119 people died and more than 500 were wounded.

Accused of being an inept and inefficient leader by the mutineers, Aquino made changes in her cabinet after putting down the rebellion, the sixth in her presidency, but problems remain.

Filipinos are treated day in and day out to the spectacle of the pro-Aquino mayor of Manila debating with the female chief of the government-run casinos — an Aquino appointee — or the morality of gambling.

Earlier this month, air traffic controllers ignored Aquino's declaration of a state of national emergency and staged a strike for higher wages, disrupting air service for 24 hours.

Corruption is blamed for the lack of progress in implementing the country's agrarian reform programme and for a host of other problems.

reform was touted as the centrepiece of a social justice programme to bridge the gap between rich and poor and eliminate one of the major causes of a 21-year-old communist insurgency.

Now, the Senate is questioning the government's efforts to push through the controversial auction of a prime property in downtown Tokyo, ostensibly to finance the agrarian reform programme. Critics say close Aquino aides stand to profit from the lucrative deal, which involves property secured through Japanese war reparations.

Although Aquino herself remains untainted, many Filipinos say corruption is more widespread now than it was during the regime of former President Ferdinand Marcos when deals were conducted through the top officials.

Caridad Quejano, for one, is nostalgic about the Marcos years.

She came to Manila two years before the 1986 revolution to escape fighting between communist guerrillas and troops in the impoverished sugar-producing province of Negros.

Seated under a tree at the seaside Rizal Park she now calls home, Quejano, 61, said that during the Marcos years, police seldom bothered her as she sold cigarettes and menthol candy to park promenaders.

"Now police are after you. They will not only take your merchandise, you have to pay them off," said Quejano, who is occasionally charged with illegal vending or vagrancy.

It is for people like Quejano who live below the poverty level on incomes of less than \$100 a month that mutineers said they staged the December

rebellion. It is for them that the mutineers say they will try again soon.

"They can try again, but look at their record," said Aquino's spokesman Tomas Gomez.

Aquino has accomplished much since she took power. She has restored democratic institutions, and revived a ruined economy saddled with a \$28 billion external debt.

She says that in the last two years of her term, she plans to concentrate on improving the lives of those living in poverty who account for half the Philippine population of 60 million.

But her pledge to be different from Marcos and her refusal to use powers clearly at her command to deal with pressing national problems are hobbling her and time is running out.



Praying for 'survival'

Philippine President Corazon Aquino and her top military officers pray during the start of the country's premier military academy graduation rites in the northern Baguio City, Feb 18. Left (left-right) Major Gen Ramon Montano, Navy Chief Commodore Thelmo



Cunanan. On the left of Aquino is Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos. Right: Cadets toss their caps after graduation rites Feb 18. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Ex-Moro leader Candao wins poll

MANILA, Feb 18, (Reuter) — A former Muslim rebel leader now supported by the government claimed victory today in a vote-marred elections to choose the governor of an autonomous region in the southern Philippines.

Zacaria Candao, who is backed by President Corazon Aquino's ruling coalition, led by a three-to-one margin over local Muslim strongman Ali Dimaporo, a former congressman and loyal follower of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

An unofficial count gave Candao 102,320 votes to Dimaporo's 34,559 in the four provinces which voted last November to join a predominantly Muslim autonomous region

on Mindanao Island. Nine other provinces in the area rejected the plan.

Colonel Wilfredo Villanueva, the police commander for central Mindanao, said three suspected Muslim rebels were killed yesterday when they snatched ballot boxes in Buldon town.

Pobce in Masia town, in nearby Lanao Del Sur province, said one man was killed when unidentified men opened fire during voting in the area.

Candao, a lawyer, joined the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), an insurgent group fighting for Muslim self-rule in Mindanao, in 1977 but returned to the government fold in 1985. He was later elected

governor of Maguindanao province.

Also at stake in the polls were the post of vice-governor and 21 seats in a regional assembly.

The autonomous region, comprising the provinces of Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao and Lanao Del Sur, will retain 40 per cent of taxes collected in the area and draw up the region's economic policies. Manila remains in charge of defence and foreign policy.

Separatist MNLF rebels, who had campaigned against the Manila government's autonomy offer, ignored the polls.

More than 50,000 people died at the height of the separatist war in the 1970s.

**Chinese-built jet baffles Taiwan:** Taiwan customs officials are baffled by an unexpected piece of unclaimed baggage — a Chinese-built jet fighter.

The fighter was discovered in a shipment from Japan, but authorities failed to locate the company which ordered the delivery, the mass-circulation China Times Express reported on Sunday.

Pictures of the plane showed it to be a Chinese replica of the Soviet MiG-19.

Taiwan's Nationalist government still considers itself at war with China's communist leaders, who drove the Nationalists to exile in 1949. (Reuter)

**US on MIA mission:** A large US military mission including four forensic, investigative and recovery teams left for Hanoi Friday to search for evidence of US soldiers missing in action (MIA) in Vietnam, a US embassy spokesman said.

"Four teams left this morning to work with Vietnamese counterparts for a scheduled 15-20 days as part of the ongoing effort to resolve the fate of missing American servicemen in Vietnam," said embassy spokesman James Williams.

The nearly three-week MIA mission with at least 13 US officials is the longest and one of the largest ever scheduled. (UPI)

**41 die as factory roof collapses:** Forty-one people were killed and more than 100 injured when a factory roof collapsed on a meeting of workers and Communist Party officials in northeastern China, according to local reports on Sunday.

The meeting was being held on the fourth floor of a building in the Dalian central machinery factory on Friday afternoon when the roof suddenly collapsed.

"It happened so quickly. About 170 people were buried but everyone was brought out within a few hours," a journalist for the official Dalian radio station said by telephone.

Workers and party officials were attending a factory training course, she said. Forty-one people were killed and 38 seriously injured. (Reuter)

**Grocery shops in bomb blasts:** Small explosions hit two grocery stores in this Atlanta suburb shortly after they were evacuated because of telephoned bomb threats.

Authorities said the main explosives in the bombs did not detonate. No injuries were reported.

"The fuse train is all that detonated, so the effect of the bombs was really only that of a firecracker," FBI spokesman Pat Johnson said. "It didn't do much damage except to its packaging." (AP)

**SU-27 thrills:** The Soviet Sukhoi Su-27 thrills the crowd at the Asian Aerospace exhibition during an aerial display Feb 17. The fighter interceptor is seen for the first time in Asia, has the ability to fly starting slow speeds while still retaining control. (Reuter wirephoto)

**Nuclear claim court resigns:** The two remaining members of a tribunal established to distribute funds to victims of nuclear testing have resigned in Honolulu because of what they said was interference from the country's parliament.

Chairman J.B. Piggott, an Australian attorney, and Paul Devens, a Honolulu attorney, said in their resignation letters that the tribunal's independence had been compromised by a parliament investigation of its work.

Piggott and Devens asked that their resignations from the Marshall Islands' nuclear claims tribunal be effective April 30. Their letters, dated Feb 9, were obtained by the Associated Press on Friday. (AP)

**Club Med to build resorts:** Club Med, which runs a string of tropical vacation resorts, is considering building a holiday village under a glass pyramid next to Montreal's Olympic stadium.

The village, similar to Vienna's glass-covered city club, would simulate a Caribbean island down to the palm trees and sandy beach.

"What we want to do is create an ambience," said Alex El-Kayem, director for Club Med Sales Inc. of Canada, a subsidiary of the French company.

Stadium officials are looking for ways to increase their revenues from the complex, which was built for the 1976 summer Olympics but has yet to recover its construction costs. (Reuter)

**Other Asean officials said that in previous statements, Asean had called for not allowing any Cambodian group to seize power, but refrained from naming any group in criticising the 1975-78 atrocities.**

The Cambodian resistance coalition said today that upcoming peace talks must focus on a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in Cambodia and must give each party a veto over any agreement.

## Aquino appeals to defend democracy

'Fugitives must be captured'

BAGUIO, Philippines, Feb 18, (AP) — President Corazon Aquino called today for unity against "malicious attempts" to topple her government and told military academy graduates there should be no "fence-sitters" in the defence of democracy.

Aquino made the remarks in a nationally televised address during commencement exercises at the Philippine Military Academy, 130 miles (210 kilometres) north of Manila.

Aquino said fugitive rebel officers must be captured because the Philippines could not afford another army revolt.

Aquino also called on graduating cadets to resist attempts by dissident officers to recruit them for another rebellion, saying the renegades only wanted "to grab power for selfish ends."

The military went on nationwide alert last week after chief of staff Gen. Renato de Villa warned that renegade leaders of last December's coup attempt might try to disrupt today's commencement.

There were no incidents, but the live television broadcast of Aquino's 15-minute speech was interrupted 18 times by spurious signals.

An engineer at the government station in Manila said he did not know what caused the interference but that the signal apparently came from inside the campus. Purported rebel spokesmen had claimed earlier they would try "something surprising" during today's graduation.

"Let there be no doubt, when freedom is in danger, there are and can be no fence-sitters and opportunities among the ranks," Aquino said. "Civilian and military alike must be one in rejecting any and all malicious attempt to undermine our democratic institutions."

Aquino's reference to "fence-sitters" reflected the fact that during previous coup attempts, many units simply waited to see which side had the advantage before committing themselves to the government.

Despite hostility between military and civilian authorities, Aquino pledged to continue forging ties to the Philippine Military Academy, which trains officers for all branches of the armed forces.

"For the past four years, I have come to honour this institution every graduation day," she said. "I will keep coming back year after year as long as I am the President of this nation."

Security was stepped up around the mountain-top academy campus to ensure the president's safety. Visitors were asked to step out of their cars and submit to body searches while troops checked their vehicles for bombs.

Presidential security troops guarded the wooded road between the city's airport and the academy campus. Other progovernment snipers stood guard on campus rooftops while bomb-sniffing dogs roamed the grounds.

During her speech, Aquino told the 146 graduating seniors they should forswear personal ambition and "just for power" in their military careers.

"Never allow your idealism to be desecrated by those whose only desire is to grab power for selfishness," Aquino said.

"It stands out very sharply against (Nelson) Mandela's release," said one diplomat.

South Africa released the leader of the African Nationalist Congress earlier this month after 27 years in jail.

**MORONI, Feb 18, (Reuter):** The Comoro island's first free elections broke up in disarray today as President Said Mohamed Djohar rejected opposition demands for his resignation, opposition politicians said.

Seven opposition presidential candidates, charging voting irregularities, met Djohar to press a joint demand for him to step aside immediately, suspend today's elections and organise a new ballot within eight days.

But Said Ali Kemal, speaking on behalf of the seven candidates, told reporters afterwards that Djohar, who is also running in the elections, had refused to resign.

## Cheney faces toughest stop

Arrives in Manila today

MANILA, Feb 18, (Agencies) — US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney arrives in the Philippines on Monday for security talks after a rare sub from President Corazon Aquino and an unprecedented display of political unity over what many Filipinos consider American arrogance.

Cheney, on a two-week tour of the Pacific rim, is to arrive at about 9 am (0100 GMT) from Hong Kong for a meeting with Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos and an afternoon visit to the US-run Subic Bay naval base. He leaves Tuesday for Japan after a visit to Clark Air Base.

US officials said Cheney was expected to tell Ramos that the United States hopes to reduce its troop strength in the Far East by 10 to 12 per cent over the next three years and that the US Congress is unlikely to keep paying as much for their upkeep as in the past.

But Aquino, who declined to see Cheney herself, has instructed Ramos to complain about the failure by the administration of US President George Bush to deliver on promised compensation for the use of Clark, Subic and the four smaller US installations.

In October 1988, then-US secretary of state George Shultz agreed to provide \$962 million over two years to maintain the bases until their lease expires in 1991.

This year, Bush asked Congress for \$360 million but the figure was cut by \$96 million. US diplomats in Manila say it is unlikely that the cuts will be restored.

Congress' action came as the two governments were preparing for talks on extending the bases' lease beyond 1991. Any new agreement requires approval of two-thirds of the 23-member Philippine Senate, where anti-bases sentiment is strong.

The aid cuts undermined the position of the handful of Filipino legislators openly supporting the bases and fuelled opposition among groups that have been seeking their closure for years.

Many Filipinos remain convinced that the United States wants to maintain its bases here at all costs and that claims of budgetary pressures and a possible voluntary withdrawal are merely negotiating tactics.

"Being a big, rich and powerful nation, it (United States) intends to get what it wants by bamboozling the Philippines into submission," said the independent newspaper the Manila Times. "This is what stings even our most rabid pro-bases advocates."

On Friday, 110 of the 195 members of the Philippines House of Representatives endorsed a call for Aquino to suspend bases talks until Washington restores the aid cuts.

A similar, non-binding resolution is pending in the Senate, where more than half the members already have called publicly for closing the bases.

The controversy over the aid cuts has brought forth remarkable similar statements from groups ranging from communist rebels to followers of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

In a statement Sunday, the communist-dominated National Democratic Front denounced the "scandalous economic pressures" from Washington and called on all groups to seek the bases' closure.

Rep. Rodolfo Albano, minority leader in the house and a member of Marcos' New Society Movement, said it was time the Americans "were told off" for alleged failure to meet their obligations.

The flap over aid cuts follows strains between Aquino and the Americans over criticism of her stewardship in the wake of a bloody coup attempt last December.

## Comoros elections break up in disarray

Djohar, who became interim head of state following last November's assassination of President Ahmed Abdallah, refused to speak to reporters after the 10-minute meeting.

The President's response to the demands for a new election was not immediately known but a presidential spokesman said Djohar would address the nation in a broadcast later.

There was an atmosphere of frustration and unease in these Indian Ocean islands as voters gathered outside polling stations that had been closed by representatives of the seven opposition candidates amid accusations of voting irregularities.

The candidates held a crisis meeting after it was found the indelible ink to be used to mark voters' fingers to prevent them from voting twice rubbed off easily and many polling stations lacked ballot papers for all eight candidates.

Three hours after voting was due to have started at 7 am, many polling stations on the main island of Grande Comore had either failed to open or had opened briefly and then closed because of the irregularities exposed.

Officials of the national electoral commission, an organisation set up to supervise the poll, said the situation was similar in the two other islands, Anjouan and Moheli.

## Asean takes strongest stand against Khmer Rouge bids in Cambodia

KUCHING, Malaysia, Feb 18, (AP) — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has condemned the Khmer Rouge by name for its past atrocities in Cambodia, and declared that it must not be allowed to regain power by force, senior Asean officials said today.

The European Economic Community persuaded Asean to take a stronger stand in talks in Kuching Friday and Saturday, said one official, but the condition he set is not to be identified.

"Also more and more countries around the world feel that the Khmer Rouge should not come to power in Cambodia once again," he added.

The Khmer Rouge killed hundreds of thousands of Cambodians in the 3-12 years it ruled Cambodia, before Vietnamese forces invaded in late 1978. The communist guerrilla force is now the strongest of three allied rebel groups fighting to topple the government that Vietnam set up in Cambodia.

Debate over the Khmer Rouge's role in a proposed interim government has blocked efforts for a political settlement to the 11-year-old Cambodian war.

"While we have generally spoken against the

Khmer Rouge's rule in Cambodia, and about the atrocities, this is the first time that we have named the Khmer Rouge in condemning its actions during its rule," the senior Asean official said.

A joint declaration by Asean and the EEC after their foreign ministers' meeting ended Saturday said the 18 nations "reaffirmed their condemnation of those responsible for the policies and practices which led to the extermination of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians from 1975 to 1978 and expressed the view that neither the Khmer Rouge nor any other Cam-

bodian group should be allowed to seize or retain power through force of arms."

Other Asean officials said that in previous statements, Asean had called for not allowing any Cambodian group to seize power, but refrained from naming any group in criticising the 1975-78 atrocities.

The Cambodian resistance coalition said today that upcoming peace talks must focus on a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in Cambodia and must give each party a veto over any agreement.



# LDP retains power

Scandal-tainted party bags 240 seats so far: JSP gains

TOKYO, Feb 18, (Reuters): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has ruled Japan since 1955, rolled inexorably to its 12th straight general election win as counting continued early on Monday.

Results for 431 seats were confirmed by the early hours of Monday, leaving results of a further 81 seats to be announced by noon (0300 GMT).

Vote counting for Tokyo and two neighbouring prefectures for the remaining 81 seats in the 512-seat lower house was due to start at 6 am on Monday (2300 GMT Sunday).

The LDP was predicted to win a majority of at least 257 seats and is likely to achieve a stable majority of 271 seats, according to local media.

That would give the LDP control of all the lower house standing committees.

By early Monday, the Central Election Commission had confirmed the names of all the 431

victors earlier projected to win by the public broadcasting network NHK and other media.

The LDP had 240 confirmed seats, followed by 114 seats for the main opposition Japan Socialist Party (JSP), 31 for the Buddhist-backed Komeito, 13 for the Japan Communist Party (JCP) and 12 for the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP).

There were three for the tiny Socialist Democratic Federation and 18 independents.

Sunday's election was a remarkable vote of confidence for a team which political analysts, just a few short weeks ago, said would be lucky to cling to power.

An unpopular sales tax and a string of scandals culminating in the Recruit "shares for favours" affair had dragged the party's fortunes so low by last July that it lost its upper house majority for the first time.

The most prominent of the LDP politicians tainted by Recruit, including former premiers Yasuhiro Nakasone and Noboru Takeshita, stood for re-election, looking to voters to cleanse them of blame. They were triumphantly returned.

A total of nine politicians accused of receiving pre-listed shares from the Recruit publishing and telecommunications firm were projected to keep their seats.

A politician tainted by another scandal also held on to his seat — Sosuke Uno, the former prime minister who fell from grace over allegations he had paid a geisha for sex, was the top winner in his district in western Shiga.

The opposition parties and mass media unleashed a barrage of concentrated fire on me," a beaming Nakasone said at his campaign headquarters in Gunma, north of Tokyo. "But this proves that the Gunma people handed me the right judgement."

The squabbling opposition parties fought hard to reprise their July victory, using the same arguments but meeting with much less success.

While the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), the main opposition grouping, looked set to improve its lower house presence from 95 to at least 114, its prospective coalition partners all saw a dramatic drop in their fortunes.

"There has been a polarisation between the JSP and the LDP and the centrist parties have fallen into the cracks," said Kenneth Courtis, chief strategist for Deutsche Bank in Japan.

Political analysts agreed voters paid less heed to attacks on the LDP's probity and more to Kaifu's claims that the opposition parties were not competent to run the country.

They said the opposition parties had failed to put forward a clear platform for a JSP-led coalition.

"The opposition was given a chance to take power on a silver platter, but they have been absolutely incapable of taking it and providing a vision for Japan's future," Courtis said.

On a personal level, the election was a triumph for Prime Minister Kaifu, who has been fighting for his political life both against the opposition and against powerful kingmakers within his own party.

The boyish Kaifu, 59, was one of the first projected winners on Sunday night, along with his main rival, JSP chairman Takako Doi.

As the size of the likely LDP majority became clear, a top party baron gave the clearest sign yet that Kaifu was likely to keep his job.

LDP secretary general Ichiro Ozawa said on television: "It is natural that Kaifu will continue to lead the cabinet if our party wins a majority."

Ozawa also threw down the gauntlet to the opposition. He said the LDP had no intention of starting immediate talks on forming an alliance with one or more opposition parties to break the deadlock in the upper house.

He ruled out a repeal of the sales tax, saying only that the government would submit to Parliament a bill slightly modifying the measure.

As reforms rolled in for elections, editors of the nation's largest newspaper gambled on the outcome. The stacked Monday morning's early edition headline:

"Liberal Democratic Party sure to take majority," screamed the headline of a trial front page galley proof in the production room of Yomiuri Shimbun, the world's largest commercial daily with a circulation of more than nine million.

Voting in Japan is done by hand at rows of tables with only a hint of privacy, and many ballots were cast in Sunday's parliamentary elections after furtive glances at neighbours or the comparing of notes.

## Double race for tough guy

TOKYO, Feb 18, (Reuters): Takashi Kono, known in Japanese political circles as the "tough guy lawmaker," capped 15 days of gruelling campaigning by casting his vote in today's general election — then running a 30-km (19-mile) marathon.

The 54-year-old Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Member of Parliament, who jogs to and from his office and canvassed for votes in Tokyo on a bicycle, appeared exhausted as he crossed the finish line, Japan's Kyodo News Service said.

have no parallel in the Far East and that the Soviet Union, while reducing the number of troops in the region, has improved the quality of remaining units.

But the Japan Socialist Party is unlikely to be satisfied with that, given that both Washington and Moscow are already cutting military budgets.

And the smaller, centrist opposition parties, which the military could count on in the past for support, are becoming less hawkish and more willing to consider defence cuts.

The Japan Socialists, who already lead an opposition majority bloc in the upper house, are expected to emerge a big winner from Sunday's election for the lower house.

## UK asks Vietnam to accept refugees

HANOI, Feb 18, (Reuters): Britain asked the communist government of Vietnam in talks opening today to accept the forced return of more boat people from crowded Hong Kong.

Foreign Office Minister Francis Maude arrived in Hanoi seeking Vietnam's acceptance of more mandatory flights, halted after the controversial return of an initial group of 51 people in December.

In four days of talks, Britain plans to press Hanoi to allow a faster flow of boat people back from the colony of Hong Kong and accept a resumption of mandatory repatriation.

Maude told reporters Britain was willing to resume aid to Hanoi stopped 12 years ago when Vietnam invaded Cambodia.

But this was on condition Vietnam "fulfilled its international obligations." Among these, he said, was the duty to accept back its citizens deported from other countries.

British government aid, like that from other Western governments, has been suspended since the 1978 invasion by Vietnam.

Britain has said it is satisfied that the Vietnamese have effectively ended their military presence in Cambodia while other states, including the United States, say there must be a comprehensive settlement in Cambodia before they lift the embargo on Vietnam.

Maude said Britain was seeking as its first priority an international consensus on the issue of mandatory repatriation of the refugees in Hong Kong, which eluded an international meeting in Geneva last month.

All states at Geneva accepted a principle that refugees not given a right to resettle elsewhere would be obliged to return to Vietnam, but Vietnam and the United States wanted the process delayed to give a chance to a voluntary scheme.

"The message is that everyone in the international community has accepted the principle of mandatory repatriation. Obviously there will be talks (here) about when it might resume," he said.

■ Britain is to break an aid blockade against Vietnam in an effort to solve the boat people crisis, it was reported in London.

Diplomatic sources here told the British media that Maude will today offer the Vietnamese government "hard cash," which could amount to as much as £100 million.

## Official denies Li quitting

BEIJING, Feb 18, (AP): An official of China's National People's Congress denied today that Li Peng will resign at an annual meeting of the congress next month.

"It's an out-and-out rumour that Li Peng will resign," Zhang Husheng, spokesman for the NPC standing committee, said at a news conference.

There have been unconfirmed reports that senior leader Deng Xiaoping and other old revolutionaries who still wield pivotal power would force Li from office because of his close association with the bloody suppression of the student movement last spring.

Students demanded Li's resignation during the demonstrations, and the premier is widely disliked for ordering martial law in Beijing and bringing in troops to crush the democracy movement.

Li is also unpopular because of an austerity plan he announced in late 1988 that has brought a halt to new economic reforms and caused a sharp downturn in economic growth.

Western diplomats say it is unlikely that Li, premier since April 1988, will be forced from office because such a move would be equivalent to admitting that the harsh crackdown on political dissent last year was a mistake.

Zhang said the 2,700-member NPC, China's Parliament, would hold its annual two-week session in mid-to-late March.

## Bitter-sweet for Nakasone

### Hard-won victory

TAKASAKI, Japan, Feb 18, (Reuters): Supporters of Japan's former prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone cheered and clapped wildly today as their hero won re-election to Parliament, purged by his people's vote from the stain of scandal.

The hard-won victory was bitter-sweet for Nakasone, who appeared smiling but subdued before a crowd of some 500 supporters gathered outside his campaign headquarters in central Takasaki, north-west of Tokyo.

"It was a painful battle," the 71-year-old conservative politician said grimly. "There was doubt about what would happen, but thanks to your support I have won."

Acrobats performed feats on bamboo ladders and dancers paraded massive black and white batons around the outdoor plaza, a deserted parking lot.

An elderly woman in the crowd exclaimed: "Even if he falls, he doesn't perish... that's our splendid teacher."

Nakasone, who led the Liberal Democratic Party to a landslide victory in the last general election in 1986, achieved more sweeping reforms than any other Japanese leader during five years as prime minister in the 1980s.

But the Recruit bribery scandal overshadowed his career and shook the LDP to the roots.

Nakasone always denied taking any bribes but he admitted his secretaries had received large numbers of cut-price shares from the Recruit publishing group. He had already handed over the premiership but he resigned from the LDP.

With his hard-won victory today, Nakasone appeared ready to leave the sidelines and rejoin the LDP.

"The LDP will make the decision," he told reporters after his election speech. "But if they let me return then I will go happily."

Sake, Japanese rice wine, flowed freely under chilly night skies outside the campaign office.

Nakasone's supporters, generally in their 50s and older, shouted "Banzai banzai" and "Japan's number one" again and again as acrobats performed their stunts in the parking lot.

Kenji Tokuma, a Nakasone backer, said that "with all the international problems Japan faces today, only a politician like Nakasone can be expected to handle them."

Nakasone had a tough battle to keep the lower house seat he has occupied since 1947.

Her companion, Hiromi Yako, a 29-year-old government employee, added: "The average voter here is over 60 and they're the ones that vote a politician like him in."

Nakasone had a tough battle to keep the lower house seat he has occupied since 1947.



One of last acts

Sunday's election probably was the last for college coed Kiko Kawashima (shown above). The 23-year-old will lose her eligibility to vote when she marries Emperor Akihito's younger son this spring.

The future princess cast her ballot at a polling centre near the prestigious Gakushuin University, where she is studying postgraduate level psychology and where her father teaches economics.

After choosing one of the eight parliamentary candidates in her home district's hotly contested race, Miss Kawashima turned to a crowd of reporters and cameramen, bowed and quickly left.

By law, members of Japan's royal family are not allowed to vote in elections or run for public office.

Miss Kawashima, who has won many admirers with her gentle politeness and warm smile, is to marry Prince Aya, 24, in late June. Aya is second in line to the throne. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Mock constitution burned

### HK protests continue

HONG KONG, Feb 18, (AP): For the second time in three days, demonstrators marched today to China's diplomatic mission to denounce the constitution drafted for Hong Kong when it reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

About 1,000 people chanted pro-democracy slogans as they marched through a thunderstorm to the Xinhua news agency, communist China's de facto embassy in this British colony. After arriving they burned a mock copy of the constitution.

On Friday, a committee meeting in Beijing approved a final draft of the constitution, known as the basic law, that calls for a pace of democratic development that many people in Hong Kong have criticised as too slow.

Under the constitution, one-third of the seats in the territory's legislature will be decided by direct election in 1997, rising to one-half by 2003. The remaining seats will be chosen by interest groups and an electoral college.

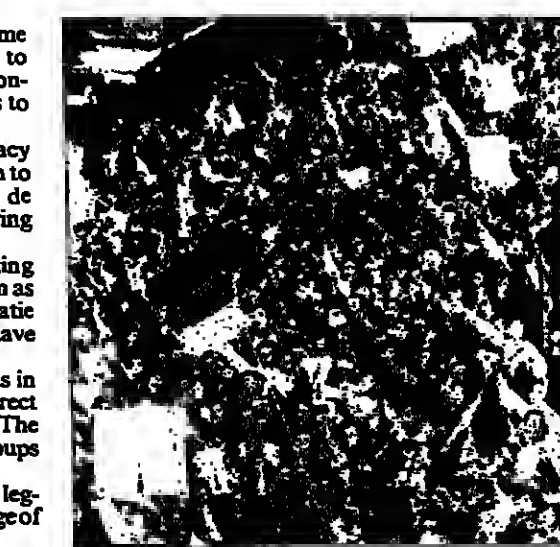
Local politicians had called for the entire legislature to be directly elected soon after the change of sovereignty.

"I think the people of Hong Kong are thoroughly disgusted" with the basic law, said Martin Lee, an outspoken lawmaker who is a leading pro-democracy activist. He said drafters of the constitution "knew what we wanted and they have us just the opposite."

The Hong Kong government has said it will urge China to speed up the pace of democratic development, but also has stressed the importance of a smooth transfer of sovereignty.

The basic law is supposed to provide the legal basis for the "one country, two systems" plan under which Hong Kong is to maintain its capitalist system for 50 years after the Chinese takeover in 1997. It will be ratified by China's parliament next month.

Hong Kong students from 12 universities and colleges staged a half-day class boycott and marched to Xinhua on Friday to demonstrate their disappointment with the basic law.



Residents of Hong Kong raise their fists and display an African National Congress flag during protest. (Reuters wirephoto)



Legislative member Martin Lee sets alight an effigy of the Basic Law draft. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Japan defence planners caught between demands to cut budget and US pressure to spend more

TOKYO, Feb 18, (Reuters): Japan's defence planners find themselves caught between opposition demands to slash military outlays and US pressure to spend more as they start to map out the country's security strategy for the next five years.

"It looks bleak both ways," a defence agency official said. "But this year will be an historic year for the defence vision; there are so many questions to be answered."

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney is expected to ask Tokyo almost to double its share of the cost of supporting 50,000 US troops stationed in Japan when he visits here next week.

Last month, the Tokyo government announced it was

willing to foot the entire bill for US military personnel in Japan. It currently pays \$2.8 billion, about half the annual cost, the most generous of countries hosting US forces.

"The main topic in talks with Mr Cheney will be the Japanese government share of the cost of stationing US troops in Japan," the agency official said.

But in Japan's parliament, the big question from the socialist-led opposition will be why Tokyo is spending so much on defence at a time of much reduced global tension.

The five-year defence plan for 1991-95, to be announced before August, is expected to become an important topic of parliamentary debate after Sunday's general election.

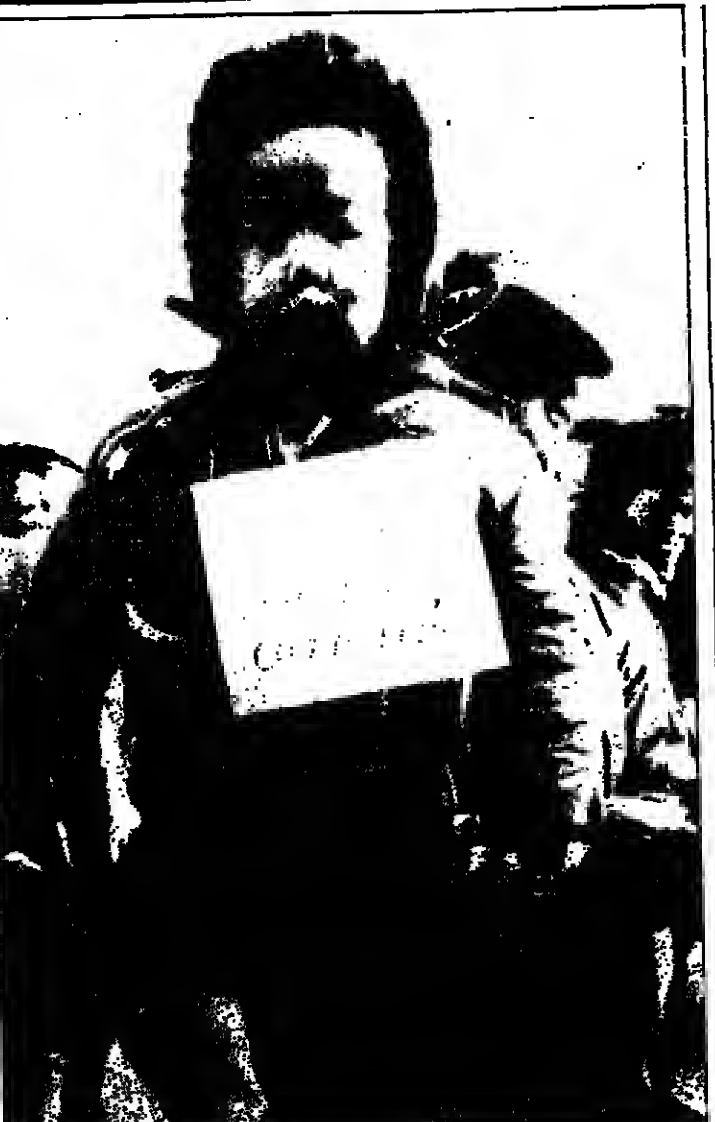
The agency says the dramatic events in Eastern Europe

have no parallel in the Far East and that the Soviet Union, while reducing the number of troops in the region, has improved the quality of remaining units.

But the Japan Socialist Party is unlikely to be satisfied with that, given that both Washington and Moscow are already cutting military budgets.

And the smaller, centrist opposition parties, which the military could count on in the past for support, are becoming less hawkish and more willing to consider defence cuts.

The Japan Socialists, who already lead an opposition majority bloc in the upper house, are expected to emerge a big winner from Sunday's election for the lower house.



A father holds up his young child wearing a sign in Ulan Bator. (Reuters wirephoto)



An elderly man in a traditional Mongolian gesture, holds up a bowl of milk and a scarf. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Mongolia gets an opposition

### End communism demand

ULAN BATOR, Feb 18, (Reuters): Mongolia's democracy movement proclaimed itself the country's first opposition party today and delegates to a founding congress demanded an end to communism and the ruling politburo's resignation.

Some 610 delegates from all over this remote Asian state crowded into an auditorium to hear calls for an end to Mongolia's 69-year-old communist system which one said made people "slaves of a monstrous state apparatus."

The new party planned to vote later today on whether to petition the nation's parliament for the politburo's resignation.

Mongolia, a resource-rich land of just over two million people wedged between the Soviet Union and China, remained tightly under Moscow's control until a few years ago when Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev allowed some genuine autonomy.

The new party grew out of the Mongolian Democratic Association which, since its establishment last December, has held several anti-government rallies and repeatedly called for a multi-party system.

Under the same pressure that toppled old-style communist leaders in Eastern Europe, the ruling People's Revolutionary Party under Zhamyambat Batmunkh has yielded quickly to some of the movement's demands.

"Long live the Mongolian Democratic Party," shouted Dognidyn Sosorbaram, one of six leaders, proclaiming Mongolia's first opposition party to a roar of adulation from delegates.

"Long live a just and humane Mongolia," Sosorbaram, dressed in a traditional tunic, yelled to another wave of cheers.

Prime Minister Dumaagiyn Sodnom told Japanese journalists yesterday that he thought a one-party system was a bad idea, giving the clearest indication yet that Mongolia's constitution could be amended later this year to legalise opposition parties.

But the concessions have only

strengthened the democracy movement.

In a ball provided by the authorities, leaders of the new party read out a provisional manifesto that promised to slash bureaucracy, eliminate foreign debt, replace central planning with a market-oriented economy, give wage rises and tax cuts and increase social security payments to the needy.

They also pledged to legislate against human rights abuses, guarantee freedom of religion and allow herdsmen to own privately as many livestock as they wanted.

The manifesto was expected to be passed by a vote later in the day.

"To make a healthy country, the whole politburo must resign," Elbegdorj, one of the movement's leaders, told the congress to rapturous applause.

"If they don't step down, then we will remove them ourselves," he said.

No longer subservient to Moscow, a Mongolian nationalism under the banner of their historic hero Genghis Khan, has surfaced. Patriotic sentiments and some anti-Soviet feeling filled the opposition congress.

"Our country is one of the poorest in the world because of huge debts we owe to the Soviet Union," said one delegate at the congress, a factory worker.

"The debts are the government's fault and they must repay them, not the people," he said in a speech.

In the first clear sign that the movement regards some three million Mongolians living in China as their estranged kin, leaders of the party displayed a scroll which they said had been sent from "Mongolian brothers and sisters" across the border.

The scroll carried a quotation attributed to Genghis Khan, the 13th century conqueror of Asia, written in Mongolian script. Delegates rose to their feet shouting "Mongols, Mongols" and the quotation was read out.

"Do not think it is too far to go. Just go and you will reach your goal."

The conservative Liberal Democratic Party, while it will lose seats, is likely to retain its majority in the more powerful lower chamber, political analysts said.

Japan's defence spending ranks third behind the United States and the Soviet Union if military pensions, which are not a formal part of the defence budget, are included.

The defence agency is expected to spend 4.2 trillion yen (\$29 billion) in the year that starts next April, 6.1 per cent more than during the current fiscal year.

Japan's military budget has grown by six per cent annually over the past dozen years, and in 1987 the government did away with a self-imposed defence-spending ceiling of one per cent of gross national product.

## Black groups falling apart

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 18, (Reuters): South Africa's anti-apartheid groups are finding it difficult to unite as Pretoria's charm offensive against the black majority gathers pace.

Rival black groups already show signs of squabbling just a week after President F.W. de Klerk released African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela from a life jail term in a bid to break the country's political deadlock.

The three main organisations fighting white minority rule are the ANC, the breakaway Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), which stresses black reliance in the fight against apartheid, and the conservative Zulu-based Inkatha movement.

All three, plus many smaller anti-apartheid groupings, are busily reassessing their positions in the wake of de Klerk's sweeping plans to bring recognised black leaders to the constitutional negotiating table.

First signs of strain emerged on Friday when Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi accused Mandela of errors of judgement in his comments about a bloody feud in Natal province between his Inkatha movement and an organisation closely linked to the ANC.

More than 2,000 people have died in three years of warfare in Natal between Inkatha and supporters of the United Democratic Front (UDF) anti-apartheid coalition.

The fighting makes Pretoria reluctant to lift a three-year state of emergency, one of the key pre-conditions which the ANC insists upon before starting talks on power-sharing with the de Klerk government.

But while Inkatha and ANC attempt to patch up their differences, the PAC has gone out on a limb with a bitter attack on the ANC's plans to meet de Klerk for "talks about talks" as soon as possible.

The ANC announced on Friday from its exiled headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, that senior leaders wanted to meet de Klerk soon in a bid to remove the final obstacles in the way of negotiations on a new constitution.

The government is expected to agree to the meeting.

"I want to say that this is not the time when you can compromise with the enemy. I say negotiation is nothing else but appeasement," PAC leader Zeph Mothopeng told a weekend rally.

Observers find it difficult to judge whether the cracks in black unity will develop into deep rifts or whether the squabbling is no more than a move to jostle for a better position when negotiations start in earnest.

PAC general secretary Benny Alexander was seen entering Mandela's house in Soweto township outside Johannesburg early today, an indication that behind the scenes the different groups will find a way to reconcile their differences.

Buthelezi says the ANC is standing in the way of black unity, but he has resolved what had appeared to be a dispute with ANC patriarch Nelson Mandela.

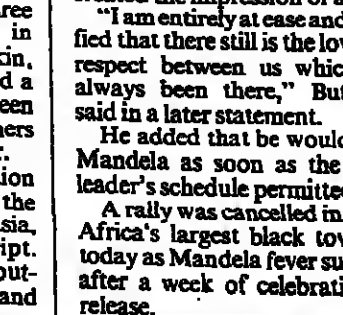
Buthelezi quoted Mandela as saying there was evidence suggesting that South African police were siding with Inkatha against the UDF.

"Dr Mandela...should seriously question those who give him the kind of background information which leads him to make these kind of serious errors of judgement," said Buthelezi.

Buthelezi later moderated his comments, saying the media had created the impression of a rift. "I am entirely at ease and satisfied that there still is the love and respect between us which has always been there," Buthelezi said in a later statement.

He added that he would meet Mandela as soon as the ANC leader's schedule permitted.

A rally was cancelled in South Africa's largest black township, today as Mandela fever subsided after a week of celebrating his release.



Mandela

هنا في الوطن



# Mujahedeen pose a threat to Soviets

Thousands rally in Tajikistan capital

MOSCOW, Feb. 18, (Agencies): A Soviet official warned yesterday that Afghan rebels are threatening to spread their anti-communist war across the Soviet border in support of their ethnic brethren and fellow Muslims in strife-torn Tajikistan.

In Kabul, President Najibullah said his Soviet-backed government had taken unspecified steps to prevent Afghan Tajik rebels from smuggling arms into Tajikistan, the Soviet central Asian republic where anti-Armenian pogroms erupted on Monday in the capital of Dushanbe and escalated into an insurrection against communist rule.

The reports of possible interference by Afghan rebels in Tajikistan "Soviet border guards will do everything necessary to prevent any intrusion onto Soviet territory and are prepared to rebuff the mujahedeen decisively and stop them from interfering in the domestic policy of the Soviet Union," Martovitsky said.

The Afghan region near the Soviet border is controlled by Ahmad Shah Massoud, the most feared of all the Muslim rebel field commanders.

Civil defence brigades led by Afghan war veterans yesterday helped Soviet troops enforce order in Dushanbe after the ethnic violence that left at least 22 people dead and 286 wounded since Monday.

Thousands of people rallied in the Tajikistan capital today after an agreement between local officials and the republic's increasingly assertive mass movements collapsed.

The peaceful demonstration was held just days after political activists clashed with thousands of troops and police in several days of pitched battles in Dushanbe.

The troubles in Dushanbe, and other parts of the republic, amid an upsurge of political activism in central Asia, pose a new threat to the Kremlin, already battered by economic turmoil, violence in Transcaucasia and separatism in the Baltic republics.

In the southern republic of Azerbaijan, 53 per cent of enterprises remained on strike, Pravda said, with scattered gunfire persisting.

A shoe factory in the capital Baku was bombed but no one was hurt.

Residents said the military, sent into the republic last month to quell ethnic battles with rival Armenians, was keeping a low profile.

Pravda said occasional gunfire could also be heard in Armenia.

Week-long rioting in Dushanbe cost more than 20 million rubles (\$33 million), with a further 5.5 million rubles (\$9 million) worth of goods looted, Pravda said.

A spokesman for the local Communist Party newspaper said today's rally demanded improvements in the republic's environment, greater economic autonomy and better living conditions in the impoverished city of half a million.

The rally apparently had the tacit support of local authorities, eager to head off racial attacks and other violence that followed last week's unofficial gathering.

Those rallies, many of which turned violent, ended after an agreement between the informal committee of 19, made up of grassroots leaders, and local officials.

Among the terms were the resignation of the top republican leadership, but the Communist Party's policy-making central committee has refused to approve the deal.

The official Tass news agency reported that life in Dushanbe remained "unstable," despite the presence of more than 7,000 police, army and interior ministry troops.

Self-defence committees have been created in the capital and in the cities of Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab.

In Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan, thousands rallied on Saturday to demand an end to the region's economic exploitation by Moscow and a halt to nuclear weapons testing in the republic.

## German unity certain: Maggie

LONDON, Feb. 18, (Reuters): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said today that a unified Germany was inevitable but warned steps were needed to make the rest of Europe feel secure.

"We want to see Germany remain part of NATO with American and other troops stationed there, with some special arrangements for East Germany, to meet the Soviet Union's security concerns," she told the board of deputies of British Jews.

"Indeed it would be quite reasonable for some Soviet troops to remain there at least for a transitional period," she said in her clearest statement yet on the question of German unity.

In a wide-ranging speech, she also told Britain's leading Jewish group that President Mikhail Gorbachev had improved the position of Jews in the Soviet Union and that Israel must negotiate with Palestinians in the occupied territories.

A new Germany must respect existing treaties and agreements, including the Helsinki final act which recognises existing borders in Europe and the rights of the four powers in Germany, she said.

"I say unification rather than reunification because we are not talking of Germany with its 1937 borders, but of the coming together of the existing Federal Republic and the GDR," she said, adding, "There is no doubt that this coming together of the two parts of Germany is going to happen."

Poland wished to see its western border guaranteed. "Other neighbouring states will have their particular views too."

She told the Board of Jews that it was understandable that, for some, bitter memories of the past should colour their view of the present and future. This must be taken into account.

Although the Soviet Union's capacity to mount a surprise attack against Western Europe has been dramatically reduced, NATO must keep up its guard, she said.

Thatcher said Britain's independent nuclear deterrent and strong conventional forces would remain in the face of balanced reductions by NATO and Warsaw Pact countries.

"We shall not do anything which will put our defence and our security at risk or to weaken our capability to undertake out-of-area tasks," she said.



### Demand for a home

A Soviet child waves his fist during a demonstration by Armenian refugees from Baku near Moscow's Gorky Park.

Poster reads: 'M.S. Gorbachev — where shall we live now?' (Reuters wirephoto)

## Dispute over role of Nato

WEST BERLIN, Feb. 18, (AP): A dispute over reunification surfaced today in the West German government, with defence and foreign ministry officials at odds over the role NATO should play in a united Germany.

The Soviet Union has said it opposes NATO membership for a united Germany and wants a reduction in the reunited Germany's armed forces.

Defence ministry officials, speaking today on the condition of anonymity, stressed that NATO's security umbrella should extend over what is now East German territory once the two countries are united.

Such a proposal was made on Friday by Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg.

But Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher was "deeply disappointed" by Stoltenberg's remarks, said Foreign Ministry officials on condition of anonymity.

In a radio interview yesterday, Genscher ruled out extending NATO's territory into what is now East Germany.

East Germany is a key part of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact alliance and West Germany is part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. A compromise on the future strategic alignment of a single Germany is considered necessary for the superpowers to accept a final reunification formula.

East Germans, who ousted their hard-line communist regime last year, are to hold their first free elections to the country's 41-year history on March 18. West German officials say reunification negotiations likely will begin in earnest after the balloting.

Genscher believes Stoltenberg's suggestions could hinder upcoming talks on German unification with the Soviet Union, United States, Britain and France, Foreign Ministry officials said. Genscher intends to bring up the matter at a cabinet meeting next week, they said.

News reports yesterday said Chancellor Helmut Kohl already had made two important concessions to the Kremlin on reunification. The Bonn government denied the reports.

Valentin Falin, a top adviser to Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, was quoted as saying in Der Spiegel magazine that a united Germany must retain East Germany's trade commitments to the Soviet Union.

"The German Democratic Republic must carry out its duties and obligations to the Warsaw Pact even after the parliamentary elections on March 18," he was quoted as saying.

■ Ibrahim Bohme, tipped as East Germany's next prime minister, has said his Social Democrats (SPD) will seek a broad coalition to run the country if they win next month's election.

In an interview with West German radio aired today Bohme said East Germany's complex problems would best be tackled by several political parties together. But he ruled out a coalition with the disgraced communists.

The SPD is favoured to win the March 18 poll, the first free vote in the 40-year history of East Germany.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**Albanian killed in demonstration:** An ethnic Albanian was killed and 25 policemen were injured as demonstrations for greater autonomy were staged for the second day in a row in the tense Kosovo province, the state Tasing news agency reported Saturday.

At least 1,000 ethnic Albanians, who make up 90 per cent of Kosovo's 1.9 million people, were officially reported arrested in the past month alone.

Osman Voksi, 66, a private craftsman, was killed Friday in the Kapishtice district of the town of Pec, consisting mostly of mud-brick houses. Most of the demonstrations in the town have been originating from these slums.

Tanjug said the demonstrators set up barricades, hurled stones and fired at police, injuring a policeman.

Some 10,000 people Saturday morning marched through the town to protest Voksi's killing and demand talks with officials. They threatened to take their complaint to federal authorities in Belgrade and if necessary, "to the United Nations," Tanjug said.

Although Saturday is the local market day, private shop owners shut their stores, adding to the tension and increasing the threat of fresh major disturbances, the agency said.

Tanjug also said there were some 5,000 protesters in Podujevo, 32 kms (20 miles) north of the capital Pristina, 2,000 in Vucitrin, 30 kms (18 miles) northwest, but it was not clear when exactly these demonstrations occurred. (AP)

**Yeltsin accuses Gorbachev:** Radical politician Boris Yeltsin has accused Mikhail Gorbachev of acting cruelly and immorally in sacking him in 1987, but says his role as scourge of party hardliners is vital to the Soviet leader.

In his autobiography serialised in Britain's Sunday Times newspaper, Yeltsin said Gorbachev's fury at his criticism of the slow pace of reform exploded at a Politburo meeting in October, 1987, when the Kremlin chief berated him for 40 minutes in "almost hysterical" terms.

"At that moment, Gorbachev hated me," Yeltsin wrote in his memoirs "Against the Grain".

After a second clash at a secret Central Committee plenum a few weeks later, Yeltsin said he suffered a physical breakdown and was taken to hospital.

Doctors pumped him full of drugs and confined him to bed, but Gorbachev telephoned to insist he attend a meeting where he was hounded out of his job as Moscow party chief, Yeltsin wrote.

"In all my working life, I have never heard of anyone being dragged out of a hospital bed to be dismissed," he said. (Reuters)

**Havel sees 'smaller, nicer' Europe:** Vaclav Havel, the Czechoslovak President, said in an essay released on Saturday that he envisions a "smaller ... nicer" Europe of the future, moulded by the Western concept of human rights.

Havel, who travels to the United States this week and is scheduled to meet with President George Bush, wrote an essay on Europe's future for the Feb 26 edition of US News and World Report.

"So what kind of place will Europe be? When all is said, it will not become an Orwellian superpower, it will become a fortress. It will be smaller but perhaps nicer place," Havel wrote.

The tide was turned in Europe, Havel said, by the Western concept of human rights.

He is scheduled to arrive in Washington on Monday.

Havel, stopping off at Reykjavik Saturday, invited Iceland's President Vigdis Finnbogadottir to his country and attended a play he wrote but had never seen performed.

The new Czechoslovak President told a news conference he had decided to visit Reykjavik because the name had become a symbol of peace — a reference to the superpower summit in the Icelandic capital in 1986. (Agencies)

**Czechoslovak party ousts 22:** Former President Gustav Husak and 21 others have been ousted from the Communist Party and accused of blocking developments and discrediting socialism during their tenure over Czechoslovakia.

The official news agency CTK, quoting from an announcement released after a Central Committee meeting, said those expelled Saturday were "responsible for wrong political decision."

CTK, quoting the official announcement, said the 22 dropped from the party "contributed to a situation where the ideas of socialism are quite discredited in a considerable part of the population." (AP)

### Mother charged with killing her 4 children in London

LONDON, Feb. 18, (UPI): A 32-year-old mother faced a court hearing today in connection with the deaths of her four children, who apparently were strangled, police said.

Oi Tai Ngai, a Hong Kong native, was charged yesterday and was being held in police custody pending a hearing tomorrow before a magistrate, said police in Basildon, about 25 miles (40 km) east of London.

Kam Tong Ngai, the father of the three boys and one girl, found the bodies of the children early yesterday when he came home from his job at a Chinese restaurant, police said.



A coffin is carried out of the house where the young children were found murdered. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Files anger Swiss

Secret police records on citizens

ZURICH, Feb. 18, (Reuters): The Swiss government is facing mounting public outrage over police surveillance of the politics, professional and private lives of many of the population over the last 40 years.

A parliamentary investigating commission reported last November that Swiss federal police had compiled 900,000 hitherto secret reports on people and organisations.

According to the inquiry, anyone attending a rally, writing political articles or even joining a women's organisation might find their name on the files, along with those believed to work for intelligence or terrorist organisations.

"Sometimes mere suspicions were noted as facts without being checked, and at times information from anonymous sources was left unverified," the commission said.

The reports were regularly used to assess candidates for public office.

Two-thirds of the files are on foreign residents.

At present, 50 people are being allowed to see their cards each day as an experiment. But every day between 400 and 500 new applications come in.

Those who saw their cards last week were shocked at the details that police — and informers — had thought worth putting on record and keeping for 20 years or more.

"It said I'd written a letter to a newspaper protesting against the sacking of a radio employee," one woman said.

Another woman said her card noted she was in regular contact with the Soviet Union. It did not add that this was a regular part of her job as a representative of Swiss youth organisations.

"All this is terrifying," one woman said.

She, like most of the others, would not give her name although her card noted only that her one-year-old son's identity card had been lost.

The 70 parliamentarians on file were allowed to see their records cards last December.

The secretly observed activities of member of parliament Max Duenki read like a scene from a spy thriller.

"The (East German) embassy secretary arrived in Oberrieden punctually at 2 pm and got out of his car holding a folder. We followed him. He entered the office of the public notary. Then D accompanied him to the car park."

The card failed to mention that Duenki had visited East Germany with an official delegation. The secretary was calling to ask Duenki his impressions and the folder contained a gift — a book on housing in East Germany.

Justice Minister Arnold Koller said some secret files are necessary for state security, but admitted last week that mistakes had been made.

He promised the files would be systematically checked and superfluous ones destroyed. Reporting criteria would no longer include foreign travel or the legal exercise of democratic rights.

The Basle police chief said 70 per cent of the 50,000 political files maintained in his city could be destroyed.

But it was not enough. The Defence Ministry was forced to admit last week what its minister had vehemently denied for weeks — that it too had kept thousands of secret personal files.

The minister apologised and pleaded ignorance. Last Wednesday the government suspended Peter Huber, the chief of both the federal police and military counter-intelligence, and launched an investigation against him.

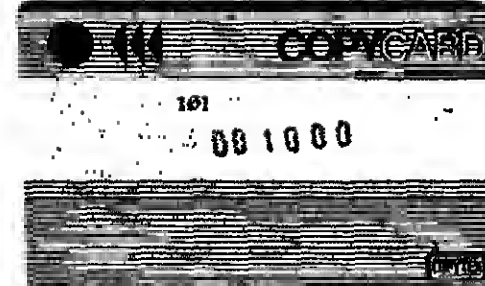
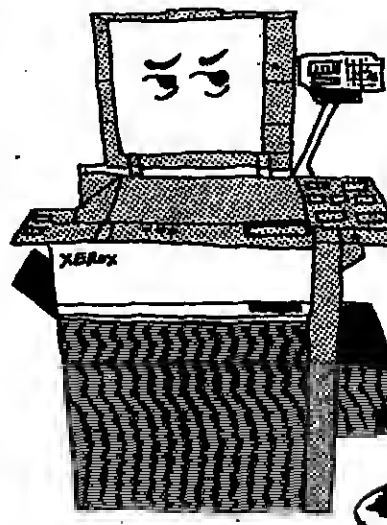
"The Trust in Peter Huber simply wasn't there any more," Koller, who is also the Swiss president said.

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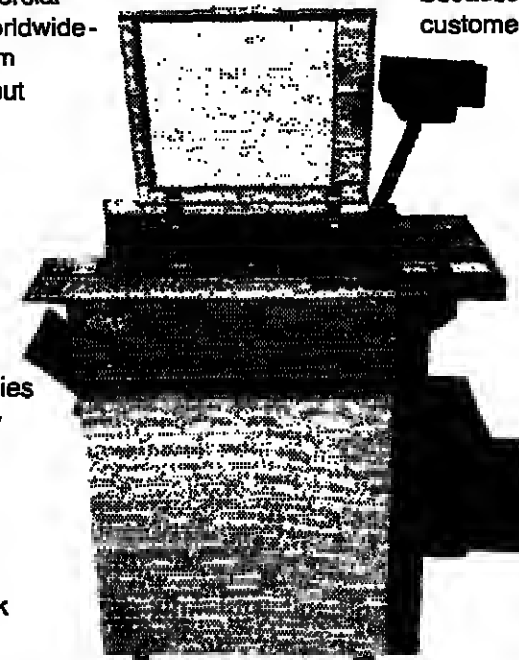
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# Virtue, not condoms to prevent Aids

## Traditional social mores may change

KUWAIT, Feb 18, (Reuters): In this deeply conservative corner of the Arab world, where free-and-easy sex is virtually unknown, anti-Aids campaigners are appealing to the population's traditional sense of virtue to stop the deadly disease from spreading.

"Knowledge and virtue protects you from Aids," is the new slogan soon to appear on public buses in Kuwait.

Like other Gulf states, Kuwait's nationwide campaign makes no mention of condoms, the only known protection against sexually-transmitted human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes Aids.

Although contraceptives are on sale at pharmacies throughout the Arab world, they are denounced by Muslim religious leaders who have ruled that birth control is against the Islamic faith.

"If we say 'use condoms' many will think we are encouraging people and con-

done sexual intercourse outside of marriage," said one campaign organiser. "It's a different mentality in the Gulf and we use the appropriate approach."

Compared to the West, few fully developed cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome have been reported in the Gulf, but a regional Aids conference here was told the disease was spreading, especially among prostitutes, homosexuals and drug addicts.

Oman reported 14 cases, Qatar 23 and Kuwait just one. Bahrain said it had not fully developed cases but random testing of some 33,000 people had revealed 60 carriers of the HIV virus.

The most conservative of all Gulf states, Saudi Arabia, did not provide figures.

Sexual intercourse before a formal engagement to marry is taboo in the Gulf and experts blame travellers for introducing and spreading the disease.

Television advertisements urge Kuwaitis, when abroad, to stay clear of bars and discotheques "where Aids-infected people are usually found."

### Testing

No such advice is needed for non-travellers. Both alcoholic drinks and discotheques are banned in Kuwait.

Kuwait, with a million foreigners among its 1.8 million population, takes the Aids threat seriously. It began testing newly-arrived expatriates in 1988.

Government employees are required to take an HIV test. Kuwait's national committee on Aids, headed by medical professor Kazem Behbehani, wants to make testing compulsory for couples seeking marriage.

Behbehani's team casts doubt on the official statistics, expressing concern they

are not recent enough to reflect the true extent of the spread of Aids in the region.

Behbehani is campaigning for a law which calls for seven-year prison sentences and fines of up to \$24,000 for Aids carriers who transmit the disease.

Jonathan Mann, Director of the World Health Organisation's global programme on Aids, said the disease was now being transmitted indigenously in the region.

For the time being, however, condoms are barred from the campaign. "I have been told that tradition and the culture of the region make it difficult to talk publicly about condoms," Mann explained.

A Kuwaiti expert said advising people to use condoms could change the social mores of centuries.

"Why should we tell people to change their habits and give them ideas for intercourse outside of marriage," he asked.

# Better health services in 1990s, says Awadi

## Priority to training Kuwaiti cadres

By Nash'at Al Agha

PLANNING Minister and Acting Public Health Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi has said that the decade of the nineties will be accorded special attention by officials to achieve a great leap in various specialisations.

He told the Arab Times that the ministry had achieved its goals over the past period in quantitative terms and this decade will witness intensive efforts to attain progress in qualitative terms in all fields.

Awadi said: "It is high time that the health insurance project scheme saw the light, stressing that no full provision of integrated health services is possible without the participation of the beneficiaries." He disclosed new plans to increase the number of existing beds at hospitals, build a new hospital in the Surrah area, to cater to the residents of the area and a large section of those living between the Farwaniya health area and Hawally—as this is the most largely populated portion in the country.

The plan further seeks to establish the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations to enhance the skills of practising doctors.

Awadi said that no full-fledged Aids cases have been discovered in the country as defined by clinical examination. However, he confirmed that the authorities are deporting those

whose lab tests prove that they carry the virus.

Elucidating, he said it is extremely important to distinguish between patients who are basically carriers of the virus, but had not yet developed the fully-fledged symptoms of the disease—total loss of immunity and those who had to be quarantined due to lack of immunity.

He revealed that only two cases were discovered of the second type of Aids patients in Kuwait and involved two little girls who had contracted the disease through transfusion of contaminated blood and both patients had since died. However, on a global level, he said that there are 200,000 cases of the second category as compared to five million carriers.

### Transplants

Commenting on transplants, he said that regulations should be framed for the donation process, particularly for those whose death is a certainty. These should be approached for donations of their organs through a written will and family consent to save the life of another human.

However, he said that it is difficult at present to make the idea of organ donations psychologically acceptable to patients, and this obstacle has created a waiting list.

Awadi said that the ministry has a surplus of administrative

staff, compared to a shortage of technical cadre. To redress this issue, the ministry is according special priority to the appointment of 250 technicians and professionals to meet the anticipated demand. Training programmes for Kuwaiti cadres have also been instituted—both locally and abroad.

The psychiatric services offered are two types—one for inmates with chronic diseases and the others for inmates suffering from neurosis considered of a temporary nature brought on by trauma.

He said that on completion of the new psychiatric disease hospital, it will receive patients with medium psychiatric conditions, while the existing hospital will be renovated and devoted to chronic cases. Normal hospitals will continue to offer treatment for simple psychiatric cases, which would be an expansion of their existing scope of work.

He said that the pharmaceutical industry in Kuwait is growing and developing incessantly and that the factory that began in 1966 with four pharmaceuticals now has a staff of over 100 specialists and administrators on a space measuring 2,000 sq. m.

The ministry's new premises are expected to be available early next summer and measures are under way to relocate the existing ministry offices to the new premises, Awadi said.

## Environment protection a public duty, says Hadi

THE secretary of the board of directors at the Kuwait Environmental Protection Council Ibrahim Hadi has said that it is a vital public duty to protect the environment in general.

He told a local daily that the public policy on the protection of the environment in Kuwait revolved around natural resources such as oil, solar and nuclear energy, underground and sea water, fish and pearl resources, the national coast, islands and against the misapplication of modern technologies and the effects of urban expansion.

Special education campaigns are being organised to raise public awareness on the importance of all-out efforts to protect natural and national resources.

Amongst others, these stress the vital role that individuals could play in maintaining the wilderness and the careful use of natural resources through the application of correct use patterns, Hadi said.

He added that stickers, leaflets, manuals, signs and other forms of educational material were distributed as part of the national effort to spread public awareness on environmental protection. Additionally, the public media was employed to step up the efforts exerted in this direction whereby the ultimate aim was to nourish the sense of responsibility among people and promote their contribution to the official environmental safeguard efforts.

He pointed out that symposia and conferences were also organised within the same framework, and special centres were set up to provide public guidance on how to avoid the existing erroneous patterns exhibited in using the country's natural resources.

He added that the centre would particularly meet the requirements of people whether by advice, supervision, guidance or provision of services for wilderness frequenters.

He stressed the powerful connection between social and individual conduct and the careful use of the wilderness, adding that all camps were responsible for the cleanliness of sites which reflected their sense of civilisation and commitment to religious teachings on cleanliness.

He said that the department of cleanliness at Kuwait Municipality undertook the collection of garbage discarded by campers in specially distributed sacks, as the provision of garbage containers was a difficult task.

Hadi said that special contests were arranged to promote the public sense of responsibility towards the wilderness and the individual contribution to environmental protection efforts and campaigns.

He stressed the element of co-operation in maintaining natural resources and protecting the environment against all sorts of pollution, adding that the old and traditional Kuwaiti habits were a good example to follow to refine the existing camping methods.

He said that special efforts were being exerted in co-operation with Kuwait Municipality and the Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority to build natural reserves for campers around the country where indigenous plants would be grown and protected and animal breeds raised.

## Indian college entrance test

A PRESS release from the Indian Embassy has said that the common entrance test for admission to Mayo College, Ajmer, will be held at 06:30 hrs. at Indian embassy premises on 24th February 1990. Candidates are requested to contact the embassy



### Honest boys honoured

Three youngsters were honoured by the Director of Public Relations Department Colonel Fahed Al Mikhled for their honesty, a press release by the Ministry of Interior reported. It added that the honoured were Manahi Al-Einazi 16, Naser Al Naser 15 and Jasem Al Einazi 15.

The three youngsters had found a hand bag containing passports, private documents and a sum of money near Burgan Bank in Sharq and they immediately handed over the same to security authorities. Colonel Mikhled thanked the three youth and rewarded them with symbolic gifts.

# State research plant ensures building quality

## Material testing

CONSTRUCTION materials used in buildings are tested according to local and international standards here at the Ministry of Public Works, Government Buildings Tests and Research Plant. The plant was established thirty-eight years ago and despite of its decreasing role during the past few years due to the fact that such tests and research are now conducted by contractors, its operations have increased noticeably due to the large size of government projects related to construction. The plant now includes several laboratories and sections in order to cover all types of required experiments.

The director of the Government Buildings Tests and Research Plant, Dr Abdul Majed Jaza stated that plant duties were indicated by a ministerial decree in 1988. The plant carries out field and laboratory tests for soil and the different projects are presented by the Ministry of Public Works or other government and local establishments. Jaza added that these tests are important in indicating soil validity and its strength towards bearing construction. He indicated that other tests are conducted to indicate the quality levels of construction materials according to local and international standards, adding that technical reports are then prepared on these tests.

### Preparation

The director pointed out that the plant conducts tests, research, and studies on construction system, methods and technology aimed at accomplishing accurate and reliable projects at a lower cost. The plant also supervises the preparation, following up, and exclusion of maintenance contracts for testing equipment used at different ministry sections.

With respect to the duties of the Soil and Construction Test Section, Jaza pointed out that the section takes over several duties mainly conducting field tests at projects sites. The section conducts assortment tests on soil by taking different soil samples at different depths. Such tests will play an essential part in indicating soil ability towards carrying all types of pressures prior to preparing the engineering designs for construction bases.

Jaza stated that the Construction Materials Tests Section at the plant is one of the important sections which highly relates to laboratory tests. The section conducts tests for all materials applied in buildings according to international standards.

The plant co-operates with other government and local establishments like Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and the University of Kuwait.

Meanwhile it encourages co-operation of other local and international departments in the same field. The Construction Research Section collects statistical data and prepares them in the form of reports including the section achievements along with other sections at the station.

### Roles

Jaza stressed the importance of the Fire Resistance Section at the plant stating that it plays an essential role in indicating the feasibility of fabrics made and other materials used in buildings and their resistance to fire.

He added that samples received by the plant for testing are distributed by the Administrative and Financial Unit at the plant to the concerned sections. The unit also receives back all reports on these tests including the fees.

The plant organises technical training courses for Kuwait manpower through the Planning and Follow-up Department at the ministry. He pointed out that the plant technical staff was supported by Kuwait staff since 1986 and that all leadership posts were accorded to Kuwaiti staff.

He indicated that the plant conducted a large number of tests during the last year, these tests are divided among all sections. He indicated that a total of 6,849 tests were conducted by the Construction Materials Tests Section, 4,860 by the Chemicals Analysis Section, 1,570 by the Soil and Construction Testing Section, 18,394 by the Concrete Tests Section.

He said that a new plant will be established in Sabhan Industrial Area according to modern systems for the 1990s.

## Landlords flout building code

HEAD of the Building Restoration and Beautification Section at Kuwait Municipality, Engineer Osama Al Duaij said that the problems they are facing in implementing the plan is caused by some landlords who carry out restoration works without referring to Kuwait Municipality.

He added that such practices do not comply with municipal regulations. Interviewed by a local daily, he added that some of the landlords don't comply to the approved studies presented

by Kuwait Municipality on construction materials and methods used in restoration and beautification of buildings. He stressed that in these cases such landlords are considered in violation of municipality decisions and should remove such violations and modify their buildings.

He stressed that contractors responsible for restoration and beautification works should comply to technical standards and specifications approved by the municipality

in order to prevent further connected to maintenance works of buildings fronts.

He pointed out that landlords are free to use any paint for their buildings adding that municipality decisions have only indicated the fact that construction materials applied should match and be adequate to environment conditions.

Duaij said that the section welcomes any complaints from citizens presented with respect of the conditions of their buildings.

## Science club Girls to get new premises

DIRECTOR of the Girls and Younger Scientists Branch at the Science Club, Muna Al Omairi stated that new quarters will be built during the current five year plan adopted by the government.

She added that the girls branch will be established on an area of 12,000 square metres and that the new buildings designed to go along with technological development. She pointed out that the new girls branch building will include twenty sections provided with modern scientific equipment in addition to areas allocated for sports and entertainment activities.

She indicated that the total number of members in both the girls and younger scientists branch since its inception three years ago, totalled 1,265. She added that the girls branch alone includes 696 members with ages ranging from 9 to 18 years. With respect to the Younger Scientists branch, it includes a total of 570 members with ages ranging from 5-8 years.

Omairi pointed out that several new sections will be opened at the branch including the mechanical section, the marine section and the biology section. These new sections will achieve good results for branch activities, she said.

She added that the branch is looking forward towards creating qualified members and directing other members towards professional works. She pointed out that the number of girls participating in different activities is constantly increasing. She stressed that providing members with transportation facilities is very important particularly during the evening period of activities.

She indicated that the branch has appointed a number of outstanding members in important training and administrative duties. She stressed that future plans put more emphasis on attracting the largest number of members and building more comprehensive co-operation with government sectors.

## Unesco praises Qatari policies

DOHA, Feb 18, (Kuna): General Director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) Federico Mayor has praised Qatar's education policy describing it as successful especially towards child education and literacy eradication.

In an interview with Qatari daily Al Sharq published Sunday, Mayor announced that a senior Unesco delegation will be arriving in Doha by mid March to evaluate the country's educational process, and to make suggestions on developing the educational plan, curriculum and computer procedures in the educational levels.

The Unesco official pointed out the organisation is exerting strenuous efforts to enhance its Olympic library in Doha in all fields especially in the fields of education and illiteracy eradication. Mayor said Qatar participated in the library by translating hundreds of Arabic literature books into foreign languages under the supervision of the national Qatari committee for education, culture and science.



### China exhibition

The China Jiangsu Trade Exhibition opened Saturday at the Kuwait International Hotel. Several products from the province of Jiangsu are on display at the exhibition, which will be opened until Feb 22 from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 7 pm. Pictures shows undersecretary at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Rashed Abdullah Al Rouml (second left) and Chinese Ambassador Guan Zhual (left) touring the exhibition. A number of diplomats and senior officials attended the opening.

## Abdali farmers bemoan unsafe conditions in area

FARM owners in the Abdali area bemoaned the utter lack of several essential services and said that they were not being treated on a par with other areas in the country.

They claimed that farms in Abdali are prime targets and a haven for smugglers, infiltrators and a host of undesirables such as beggars and unsavoury characters.

A farmer in the Abdali area, Ali Al Bassam said that on several occasions thieves have made off with cattle, sheep and other produce. Besides, the monetary loss, he added is the fear of safety of life and limb. He added that security is utterly lacking in the area.

Another farmer, Khalil Al Shaheen said that many smugglers use farms as hiding places in which to store their narcotics, alcohol and arms. He called on security men to control these nefarious activities by undertaking to patrol the border round the clock.

He added the unchecked activities of these unsavoury characters could in some unforeseen circumstances cause innocent farmers to be apprehended by the police for hiding contraband. Because of the lack of adequate lighting facilities, it becomes risky for farmers and their workers to move out at night, he said and added that the roads and other infrastructure in the area is sorely in need of immediate attention.

Another farmer, Saleh Al Sharhan said that farmers are not adequately subsidised for their agricultural products. He added that a farmer sells a kilo of tomatoes for only 40 fils, even though the local produce is far superior to imports. He said that if the government provides more subsidies to farmers, they will be able to accomplish self-sufficiency in many agricultural products. They would also be able to diversify and rotate crops, thereby meeting demands with reasonable prices. Also, farmers face serious problems in the marketing strategies of their products and the authorities should address this aspect.

He added that the Ministry of Health should accord more concern to the health centre in the area because there are many workers in farms and the number of physicians should be increased.

Meanwhile, the managing director of Kuwait Agricultural Products Company Khalid Al Usman has said that company is preparing to establish new sites for Wafla and Abdali areas to offer guidance and advice to farmers. The company is also seeking to develop its production units to increase their products and also planning to open more markets for local agricultural products at governorates.

The company offers different services, seeds and fertilisers as well as equipment for farmers at suitable prices. It also provides them with required information and advice to develop their farms. The company markets products of local farms beside transporting these products from farms to markets and affixes a daily price for these products according to demand and offer in order to keep these prices at reasonable levels.

The company built five vegetable markets in the five governorates beside the main market at Shuwaikh. There are also 43 branches in different areas, Usman said.

## Local GM research on 1991 Caprice

THE 1991 Chevrolet Caprice, an evolutionary update of the most popular American car in the Middle East was introduced at Detroit's North American International Auto Show in early January.

"Models built specifically for the Middle East driver are currently under development and testing in the Middle East. They will be sold in the Gulf later this year through the extensive General Motors dealer network," said Terry Indge, head of the General Motors regional marketing office based in Dubai.

Arab world conditions testing before production.

## Crime file Bangladeshi murdered by fellow countryman

A BANGLADESHI citizen died after he was stabbed by a fellow countryman, according to security sources.

The incident was reported to the Fahad police station by an Egyptian citizen and investigations are in progress to uncover details of the crime.

DETECTIVES of the Capital Police have apprehended three Sudanese nationals identified as Ibrahim H. Ahmed S. and Abdullah F. for smuggling hashish into the country, the Public Relations Department of the Interior Ministry said.

SECURITY sources said that a Kuwaiti national identified as Talal A opened fire with his pistol on another Kuwaiti national, identified as Ajeel N.

The incident occurred at the Fourth Ring Road and was caused by a conflict between the two. The accused shot three bullets at the victim, one of which has been reported to have lodged in the head of the victim who was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition.

The accused has been arrested and investigations are under progress, though no further details have been provided.

DETECTIVES of Hawalli governorate have arrested a Kuwaiti national identified as Saleem for stealing a car from another citizen identified as Hameed S. The accused has been remanded to police custody for investigations.

limited number of test cars to the region long before the model's public availability.

"We are bringing the Caprice here, at the same time as the US announcement of the car, along with our engineers in order to test every aspect of the car on our local market. Although it may not be widely known, each and every General Motors vehicle sold through our authorised General Motors dealers is built especially for the Middle East to withstand its harsh climatic and operating conditions.

Owner opinion research conducted: "At the same time, we are also conducting surveys designed to seek the opinion of the potential owner and driver, in order to better serve him."



# Amir's successful Oman visit hailed

## Cabinet discuss Jewish emigration

KUWAIT, Feb 18, (Kuna): The Kuwaiti Cabinet today hailed the successful visit of HH the Amir to Oman and its role in affirming co-ordination and integration among the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and spirit of Arab solidarity and joint endeavour.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed told reporters that the cabinet opened its session by reviewing the Amir's visit to Muscat and content of the Kuwaiti-Omani summit talks.

Noting that the visit falls in line with fraternal meetings which the two leaderships are keen on maintaining to increase co-ordination and consultation, the minister explained that their talks affirmed the identical views of both leaders toward issues of common interest and tackled latest Gulf, Arab and international developments.

The cabinet then reviewed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's message to His Highness

which dealt with bilateral relations and means of upgrading bilateral co-operation in various spheres, Rashed went on.

The state minister added that the cabinet then took note of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's message to the Amir which tackled the intensified Soviet Jews' immigration to the Israeli entity and their resettlement in the occupied Arab territories.

The message pointed to the dangers of such an influx on

Mideast peace efforts and future of the Arab nation in addition to necessary practical steps to protect Arab rights, he elaborated.

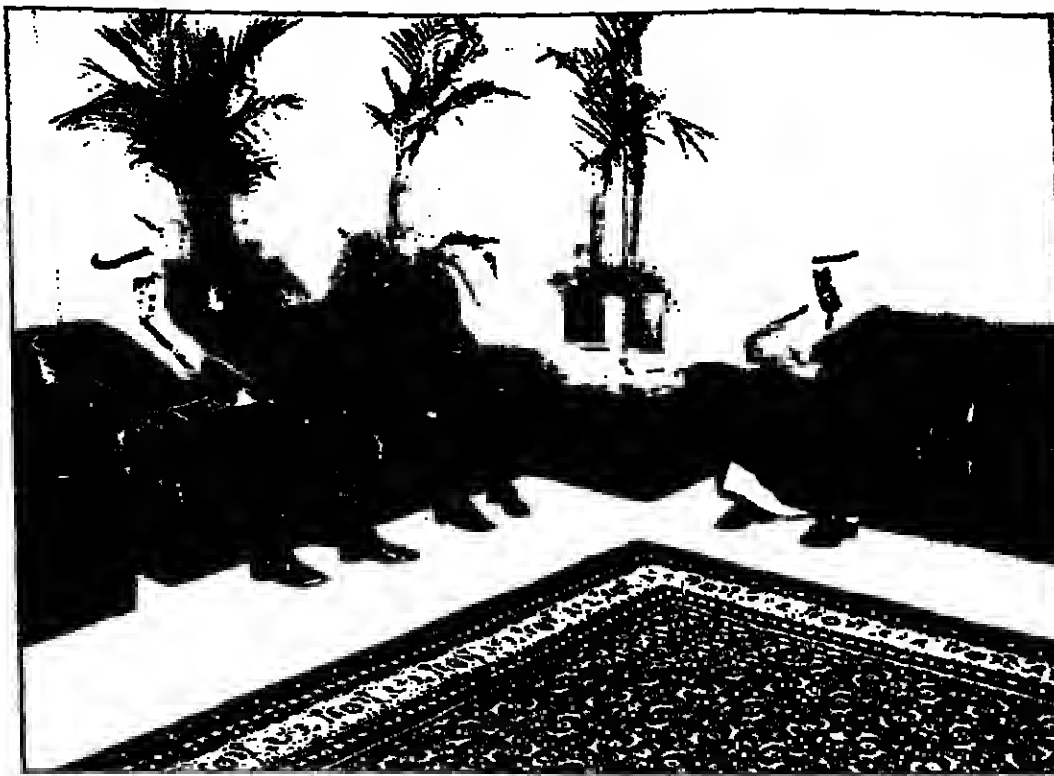
The ministers also took note of Turkish President Turgut Ozal's recent letter to HH the Amir which reflected his appreciation of the Amir's efforts to solve the problem of Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi briefed the cabinet members on results of the 24th

session of the GCC finance ministers that concluded in Riyadh recently, Rashed said.

He added that State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud Al Ossaimi briefed the cabinet on outcome of Pakistani Justice Minister Iftikhar Hussain Gilani's visit to Kuwait last week during which he was met by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier.

The cabinet finally discussed municipal and other affairs, Rashed concluded.



Amir receives Nyerere

HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah received yesterday the Chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Party of Tanzania and Chairman of the South Commission of the Non-Aligned Movement Julius Nyerere on the occasion of his visit to attend the preliminary meeting for the South-South commission.

The meeting was attended by Chairman and General Director of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development Abdul-Latif Al Hamed.

## Legal Clinic

SHOULD you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, kindly send your questions to: Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries.

Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4841495.



I CAME to Kuwait in 1975 on visa No. 20, which was changed to visa No. 18 (without leaving the country) in 1983. Later, I moved to another company and worked from 1985 to 1989. In July 1989, I shifted to another company due to low salary. Can I leave the company within six months to a year? I have not completed three years. I would like to know if I can change jobs?

E.S. D'Souza

NO, you can't change jobs because you did not complete three years with the present employer, and you have not continuously stayed on visa No. 18 for a period of 10 years. The period of stay is counted from the time of getting visa No. 18, in your case 1983. It would be advisable to continue in your present employment.

CAN an employer (private or government) force an employee to attend the full or part of his accredited leave?

U.C. Sharma

AN employee is entitled to take annual leave. Article 38 of the private sector labour law stipulates: "Every labourer who has completed one year continuous service with the employer shall be entitled to a leave of fourteen days with full pay, which shall be increased to 21 days following the fifth year of continuous service."

Article 39 of the same law says: "The employer shall have the right to fix the date of annual leave, and may grant it partially, upon securing the consent of the labourer, after the expiry of the first half period of the period fixed for the same period."

Annual leave is one of the rights of an employee; he must avail of the leave to take a rest, recover from stress and continue in his job. Working for a continuous period for a long time is not good for both the employer and the employee, and normally he must avail leave for the benefit of both parties. An employer can ask an employee to take leave if he feels that prolonged work jeopardises performance of duty.

Legal analysts say that an employee must take leave, at least once a year, to rest for a period of time so as to come refreshed to duty.

HOW many times can a landlord legally multiply the rent of a house or a shop. Are there any hard and fast rules for fixing rent. Can the landlord change the rent as he wishes?

M.K. Jain

NOT only the landlord but the tenant also has the right to review the rent every five years. Depending on the market price the landlord can ask for a hike; if the rent is higher than the prevailing market rate, then, it can be lowered. In case of a dispute, the matter can be taken to court, which will send experts to review the rent in the area, inspect the building and take other circumstances into consideration to determine whether the rent is reasonable or not. The law says that the rent can be reviewed every five years, and the revised rent should not be more than 100 per cent.

ON behalf of many of my friends, I wish to seek the clarification about the maintenance of flats/houses and it should, in no way, be construed as a complaint against the building owners in general or specific.

Are there any directives/rules which define the extent of the maintenance to be undertaken and borne by the owner or by the tenant? Please clarify:

1) Periodical painting; 2) plumbing works, including geyser replacement; miscellaneous jobs such as replacement of exhaust fan, kitchen cupboard, window glasses etc.

It appears that the "harris" — the so-called deputy landlord — of the building sometimes takes undue advantage of the situation and makes the tenant pay for all such maintenance works, and the building owner may not even know about it.

U.C. Sharma

THE Rent Law, No. 35/87, Article 8

covers the matter. The landlord undertakes the maintenance of the building during the period of renting, especially major repairs like roofs, stairs, lifts, water pipes, sewage network. If the landlord does not make such major repairs, then the tenant can ask him to do the jobs. If he still refuses, a tenant can seek the landlord's written permission to carry out the repairs and have the money refunded.

The maintenance costs are high and the tenant can ask the landlord to undertake major repairs.

The same article also covers the sort of maintenance work that should be done by the landlord, and the location. Usually, the maintenance of the building exterior is the responsibility of the landlord; maintaining the building interior falls under the tenant's responsibility; this excludes major repairs. If there are any major repairs inside the building, the matter can be brought to the attention of the court, which determines responsibility.

I AM holding a current account in a bank in Kuwait since 1981. I operated that account regularly until 1985. After that I did not operate the account, and left the balance in the account. Last week, I deposited some money in that account and issued a cheque against the amount. Later, I found out my account has been "dormant" and I can't operate it. I spoke to the bank officer to reactivate my account but he said there is some problem.

Last week, the bank threatened to dishonour my cheque. If this happens, I'll be in trouble. Please advise.

S.D.

YOU must return to the bank, open a new account, and advise the bank manager, giving them the cheque number, to honour the cheque from the money deposited in the new account. In the meantime, you can solve the problem of your dormant account.

## Kfas awards

### Hamzah, Teibi win for science contribution

KUWAIT, Feb 18, (Kuna): Observing an annual ritual, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (Kfas) yesterday announced the names of researchers who won the foundation's coveted cash prizes for outstanding scientific contributions.

A basic science prize for Arab nationals went to Dr. Ahmed Saeed Al Teibi of Kuwait's Al Sabah Hospital and Dr. Hanafi Ahmed Hamzah of Egypt's Al Manyufiya University. The one specialises in hereditary diseases and the other in agriculture.

Kfas said in a statement no Kuwaiti contestants applied to win this prize.

Each of Kfas prizes consists of 10,000 Kuwaiti dinars (roughly \$29,000) in cash along with a Kfas shield and a certificate of merit.

None of the entrants won prizes for the best research papers in socio-economic sciences, arts and letters, and Arab and Islamic heritage, as the scientific papers fell short of the desired standards, the Kfas statement said.

## Still alive

NICOSIA, Feb 18, (Reuters): An Omani woman being prepared for burial sat up and shouted "I'm still alive" after her son splashed her with water as part of traditional Muslim rites, the Omani news agency said today.

"The woman appears to have been in a long coma and her family thought she was dead," said the agency, received in Cyprus.

## Qurain poses threat to residents: report

### Gases emanating from land

POSSESSION of documented information and scientific evidence of a potential disaster about to befall the residents of the new Qurain Housing Project, are the claims of a local daily.

The paper said that part of the project land, over the past twenty years had been a burial ground for human garbage and industrial wastes. It further stated that the disposal process was performed haphazardly and with utter disregard to scientific principles.

Elucidating, it said that no ventilation pipes were provided to aspirate the gases emanating from the inevitable slow decomposition process, which included gases like methane. This gas, the paper said, is well-known for its

potential explosive nature if the released amount exceeds 7 to 15 per cent in an enclosed space. They cited incidents in parts of Europe and American involving violent explosions due to this gas.

**Recommendations**

The paper recommended that all close-by housing units should be relocated at least a minimum of one kilometre away from the bed of decomposing wastes in Qurain. It disclosed that this gas is present in concentrations exceeding 45 per cent in certain areas and is a serious hazard to life.

The paper also said that other gases emanating from the bed of disposed wastes have been proven to be carcinogenic and that

adverse effects posed by the emission of these gases will be evident after a lapse of 20 years.

The paper stressed the need for urgent measures to be instituted to prevent new residents from taking up houses in the area. These measures should include the relocation of the bed for decomposing wastes away from the project site. The paper estimated a time-frame of three years and a cost of about KD3 to 5 million. Alternatively, the paper recommended relocating a part of the disposed wastes in a cross-section measuring 100 metres to provide good ventilation and aspiration of the emanating gases which would be less costly and less time consuming.

## Omeed visits social complex in Sulaibikhat

KUWAIT, Feb 18, (Kuna): Iraqi Social Affairs and Labour Minister Omeed Medhat Mubarak today visited the social care complex at Al Sulaibikhat area.

During his tour of the complex, Dr Omeed inspected the health, educational and humanitarian services provided for occupants of these homes and also examined the modern equipment used there.

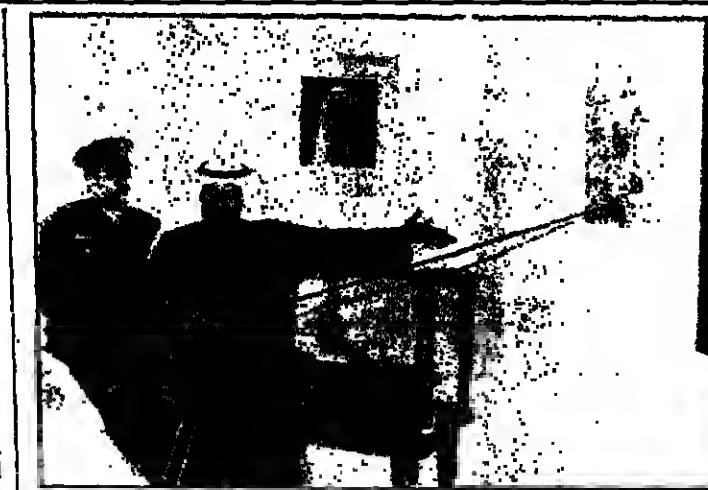
The Iraqi minister displayed admiration at the high technical level Kuwaiti social services have reached.

Kuwaiti social affairs and labour minister hosted a luncheon in honour of his Iraqi counterpart, which was attended by Social Affairs and Labour Undersecretary Essa Yassin, Kuna's Board Chairman and Director General Barges Hmoud Al Barges, assistant undersecretaries and other ranking ministry officials.

## Rare offer

KUWAIT, Feb 18, (Kuna): A prominent Kuwaiti man of letters today said he will offer as a present to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed a collection of rare Arab manuscripts and Kuwaiti documents.

Khalid Saud Al Zaid told Kuna that he is pleased to offer such valuable documents to His Highness as a present to the next generation.



Shuaiba Port Information Day

Berthing charges in Kuwaiti ports have remained unchanged since 1976, Abdulrahman Al Nabari, deputy director-general of Shuaiba Port said in a press interview on the occasion of Shuaiba Port Information Day.

The port has been designed to the highest modern standards with the aim of developing commercial and industrial movement of the country and to serve the southern areas of the country, particularly Shuaiba Industrial Area, the official said.

The port consists of 24 berths capable of receiving container vessels and other merchant ships. Last month, 13 container ships berthed at the port.

Authorities are working towards alleviating "bottlenecks" which are primarily due to security aspects, the official said. The retreat in port activities during the past years are attributable to the peculiar circumstances prevailing in the region.

Commenting on differences between Dubai based Jabel Ali Port, and Al Shuaiba Port, the official said that Dubai is an open zone and Rashed Port has been devoted to the private sector only.

## 2,500 students for continuous education

NEARLY 2,500 students have begun attending different courses at the Society Service and Continuous Education Centre at the University of Kuwait. Classes commence today and will last until May 28, 1990. Two lectures per week will be conducted of one and a half hour duration each.

The deputy director of the Linguistics Centre, Jassem Al Matar indicated that Kuwaiti students represented 30 per cent of students, other Arab nationalities 56.5 per cent and foreigners 14.2 per cent. A total of 500 students have yet to receive their course schedules, Matar added.

Meanwhile, Ibrahim Salmeen, head of the Acceptance and Registration Section at the Society Service Centre said that a total of 1,100 students have registered for the English course, of which 750 are newly registered. He said that the large number of applicants is evidence of the centre's excellent standards. However, he said that late regi-

strations do cause some confusion and called on students to enroll as early as possible.

Nahed Dawood, one of the students stated that she had registered in the English course due to its importance in finding a job. She added that due to the organised registration measures applied during registration students prefer to join the centre than joining local institutes. She praised the level of courses and added that it will improve her chances for a job in the future.

Many of the already registered students were attracted by the centre in order to improve their general knowledge. Lubna Al Alami stated that she has been joining the centre since 1983. She started taking courses in Spanish until she reached the last level and now she is attending a French course to increase her language capabilities. She praised the level of courses and the level of co-operation between students and teachers.

## Kuwait food production on the increase: report

By Yakub Razzaque  
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT has been successful in increasing its domestic food production considerably during the last decade, thereby keeping pace with domestic food requirements. During the same period food imports by the country have also shot up because of increasing food consumption by a growing population, according to reports published in the latest edition of Arab World Agribusiness Journal (AWA).

The respected Arab world agriculture magazine, published from Bahrain, said that Kuwait has come a long way in food production since the beginning of the eighties when the government launched an ambitious programme to increase agricultural output by allocating increasing amount of land for cultivation by sophisticated modern technology and raw materials.

Agricultural development has been sustained by the state by encouraging local farmers with subsidy incentives on a large scale and with the formation of agricultural co-operative societies.

**Tonnage**

According to latest statistics published by AWA, total vegetable production in Kuwait increased from 117,000 metric tonnes in 1987 to 119,000 metric tonnes in 1988. During 1980-88 period poultry meat production increased almost threefold from 9 million to 28 million. About 50 per cent of Kuwait's poultry meat and eggs consumption and 20 per cent of fruits and vegetable consumption come from domestic sources. The country's four co-operative societies which are popular, boast of a membership of about 400 farmers.

While food production in Kuwait improved substantially over the last decade, imports have also gone up during the same period. The country is expected to continue to import most of its food requirement — currently about 80 per cent — throughout the nineties, as domestic production though commendable will not be adequate for total food self-sufficiency from home sources.

According to latest FAO figures Kuwait imported about 60,000 tonnes of wheat and 110,000 tonnes of corn in 1989. The country imports about 3,000 tonnes of cereals annually. Saudi Arabia is Kuwait's major exporter of wheat (48,000 tonnes by May '89).



Civil Defence volunteers graduate

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah yesterday lauded volunteers of the Civil Defence service and said that this proves that "Kuwaitis are capable of giving."

In his speech at the graduation ceremony of the 2nd batch of Civil Defence volunteers Saturday Sheikh Salem said that the first batch was experimental and spoke of some follow-up courses after graduation.

He affirmed that the Ministry of Interior is keen to follow up all technological developments in regard to Civil Defence, indicating that it had sent a number of officers to a number of advanced states in this field.

Earlier, Civil Defence Department Chief, Col. Khaled Al Quood had said that the department aims at qualifying citizens to serve as back up for specialists of the armed forces, physicians and firefighters.

Picture shows Sheikh Salem presenting a certificate to a volunteer.

## Telephone bills can be paid in installments: Sharhan

THE Council of Ministers has decided to permit telephone subscribers to pay their pending bills in installments and also exempted them from paying bills prior to 1978, Abdullah Al Sharhan, minister of communications said and added that telephone subscribers who desire to have their telephone lines reconnected, will not have to pay the KDS reconnection charges as at present.

However, he clarified that the ministry has no intention to waive charges of subscribers who desire to change their telephone numbers. Changing telephone numbers is a time-consuming process he said.

Speaking on the issue, the director of telephone and cables services department, Fadel Abul Hassan said that the subscriber has the right to transfer his telephone line from the present place to his new place provided the new place is supplied by the same central.

He confirmed that the ministry permits subscribers to transfer their telephone lines from house to shop or vice versa within the same central after payment of subscription fees and all outstanding charges.

The minister said that the new telephone directory comprising of five parts will be distributed next month and disclosed that each part will be specifically tailored to each governorate. Additionally, he said that about 60,000 telephone sets will be arriving within this month and will be distributed to subscribers.

The ministry intends to introduce some modern services through the telephone during next month. These, among others will include awakening services, transferring of calls and storage of telephone numbers. These services will first be introduced in Shuwaik and Kuwait City to see the reactions and if these are found favourable, it will be incorporated

on a comprehensive basis. The ministry will also offer a new service based on transferring information and data through the computer. A plan has been designed to train a number of Kuwaiti cadres to work in this vital service that is expected to be very popular in Kuwait, the official said.

## Transportation

Sharhan said that the new transportation law is in its final stages and will be referred to the legislative committee and then to the Council of Ministers for final approval.

The new law is intended to help facilitate and organise land and marine transportation, besides activating commerce and trade in the country and the area. The ministry is also working to develop postal services which were last updated in the form of its administrative structure.

Meanwhile, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Communications, Abdul Aziz Al Ayoub said that the ministry seeks to qualify and train the middle administrative staff to cope with the modern trends of administrative development.

Headed that job classification is very vital for employees as it develops their performance and improves productivity. He said that addressing the classification issue should be accorded top priority. He disclosed that the ministry has completed the training of 94 Kuwaiti cadres in different programmes.

## Demand

Ayoub pointed out that the ministry will begin offering a new service at Hawali Central during the celebrations of the National Day, and added that applicants will be able to complete their formalities within 30 minutes.

He said that an identical service has already been introduced at Raas Al Salamiya Central and it will be extended to cover other centrals.

The undersecretary said that demand on 101 services is very high compared to other countries of the world. There are 300,000 working telephone lines in Kuwait with an average of 16.3 lines per 100 persons. This shows that inquiries in 101 information service are 400 per cent more than inquiries in other countries of the world everyday. He added that within one day and in Feb 8, 1990 the 101 service received 13,290 calls only during morning period and operators answered 12,361 of these calls (95 per cent) 9,418 calls were received in the evening period of same day and operator answered 7,265 of them (77 per cent). The ministry is going to invite for a tender to expand the 101 information service by distributing it over all governorates.



## ARAB TIMES

### Thought for today

THE hearts of small children are delicate. A cruel beginning in this world can twist them into curious shapes —  
Carson McCullers.

### Influx of Jews

## Soviets asked to reconsider

KUWAIT, (Kuna): "The slap of a friend has been barmer to the self because it touched pericardium of hearts full of love and appreciation for the Soviets." Kuwait News Agency said in an analysis on the controversial issue of Soviet Jews emigration to Israel.

"Therefore," the analysis stressed, "reconsideration of the decision opening the gate before Soviet Jews emigration... might help speed up healing the Arab wound which seems to be deep in spirits."

It emphasised that the Soviets must understand that "there is no other interpretation for the emigration of Soviet Jews at this delicate crossroad except to say that it is a new powerful aggression feeding the war machine of the Zionist enemy and supporting countries."

#### Regardless

"Regardless of official Soviet statements that the emigrants have no right to resettle in occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the 1948 Arab occupied lands are no longer able to take in new emigrants, not to mention that these lands are Arab Palestinian lands recognised in many socialist documents and books."

"Even if the emigrants remained for months far away from the West Bank and the strip, they will, after a while, become Israeli citizens the Soviet Union has no mandate over if they move to the bank and the strip," the analysis asserted.

While lauding the Soviet government's previous stands toward the Arab world and the Palestinian question, the analysis underlined that the Arab world is "confident that the peoples of the Soviet Union and the Soviet leadership will not accept to make the Palestinian people pay in blood for the cost of the new policy of perestroika and glasnost because they never were a cause in errors committed inside the friendly country."

"Was the Marxist understanding for the Jewish question wrong, therefore entailing a review, or were Soviet stands against Zionism as a colonial, expansionist and racist movement mistaken, therefore calling for a human support?" wondered the analysis, saying if the Soviet Union is really convinced of the measure it took recently, it must have been in a "coma" during the past 42 years.

#### Deny

The Arab Palestinian people can not deny the right of freedom to any people within defined and secure borders internationally recognised, the analysis said, "but when a group of people enjoy freedoms on the expense of the rights of others, the question becomes totally different and can be described as a direct aggression on others."

The analysis pointed out that the Soviet decision was made at "a decisive moment of the history" as it followed two years of a strong Palestinian intifada which changed many views at the international level and won many friends.

The decision also came in the midst of a semi-international consensus on the necessity to hold an international conference and establish a Palestinian independent state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the analysis added.

"Even inside the Zionist entity," the analysis continued, "supporters of a dialogue with the PLO and recognition of Palestinian legitimate rights are growing to the extent of arousing the concern of the rulers of Tel Aviv."

## Cuba seeks to survive

HAVANA, (Reuters): Communist Cuba, defiant but concerned about reforms sweeping Eastern Europe, wants to breathe new life into its 31-year revolution by making its one-party political system more responsive to the people.

But the island's ruling Communist Party, headed by President Fidel Castro, says it has no intention of following its Soviet counterpart to multi-party politics.

Significant internal reforms unveiled by the party Central Committee on Saturday will seek to revitalise Cuba's political institutions by making them more efficient and more in touch with the island's 10 million people.

#### Response

While the initiative is clearly a response to the political and economic reforms in Eastern Europe, its main point is to strengthen the Communist Party's leading role as enshrined in the Caribbean island's 1976 Marxist-Leninist constitution.

"What we are talking about is the perfecting of a single, Leninist party based on the principles of democratic centralism," the Central Committee said in a statement which covered the front page of the party daily Granma.

The declaration marks a parting of ways between the Cuban party and its counterpart in the Soviet Union, Cuba's main political ally, which this month scrapped its monopoly of power, paving the way for multi-party democracy.

To strengthen its position, Cuba's Communist Party wants to improve all the country's political institutions, from the Central Committee down to the neighbourhood committees for the defence of the revolution.

### TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1499 — Florence joins French alliance for partition of Milan in Italy.
- 1578 — Duke of Anjou, with French army, invades southern Netherlands.
- 1618 — Peace of Madrid is ratified, ending war between Venice and Austria.
- 1674 — Treaty of Westminster, whereby British withdraw from Dutch war.
- 1797 — Pope Pius VI, by Treaty of Tolentino, cedes the Romagna, Bologna and Ferrara to France, as Napoleon Bonaparte advances through Tyrol to Vienna.
- 1803 — Act of mediation is passed in Switzerland, under which Cantons regain independence.
- 1807 — British fleet forces way through Dardanelles to support Russia in war against Turkey.
- 1924 — Shah Ahmad of Persia is deposed.
- 1927 — Chinese nationalists extract from Britain reduction of concessions at Hankow and Kiukiang.
- 1945 — US forces begin invasion of Iwo Jima in Pacific in World War II.
- 1959 — Agreement is signed in London by Greece, Turkey and

### Kremlin facing fresh dangers

## Anger engulfs Soviet Asia

MOSCOW, (AP): Caustic ingredients brewing for decades — suppression of Islam, joblessness, pollution and a burgeoning population — have come to a boil in Soviet Central Asia and pose dangerous new challenges to the Kremlin.

From the deserts of Turkmenia to the glacier-laced peaks of the Pamirs in Tadzhikistan, people are venting their anger over nationalist issues as they awaken from decades of complacency to exploit the greater openness now allowed in Soviet life.

In some cases, the emotions have exploded into violence. Since 1986, more than 120 people have been killed in ethnic clashes, including riots and a virtual uprising in Central Asia.

Stretching over an area half the size of the United States and home to 49 million people, Soviet Central Asia is an important provider of agricultural products to the nation, but also one of its biggest headaches.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev is well aware of the dangers as he tries to reverse decades of neglect of the environment, culture and religion.

#### Reaction

"This is a kind of chain reaction accompanied by an orgy of violence," Gorbachev told the Supreme Soviet legislature on Wednesday in reference to the latest outbreak of ethnic violence in Tadzhikistan.

"The country's destiny and the safety of our citizens is at stake, comrades. We must do everything to put out the fire," he said.

Soviet Central Asia has been in flames before. It was a crossroads for invading Mongols, Turks, Persians and Slavs until it was absorbed in Czarist Russia's drive south in the 19th century.

In modern times, Soviets have fought each other in Central Asia.

In 1986, the bloodiest ethnic riots in decades broke out in Alma Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, following the replacement of the republic's party leader, a Kazakh, by an ethnic Russian. Two people were killed.

That same year — in a precursor to the riots that began last week — 3,000 people rioted in Dushanbe, the capital of Tadzhikistan. Reports spoke of an unspecified number of injuries in ethnic clashes.

In May, bands of young people frustrated by high prices and consumer shortages rioted in two cities of the Turkmen republic bordering Iran.

A large-scale rampage of arson and murder involving ethnic Uzbeks and Meskhetian Turks, forcibly deported to Central Asia by Stalin in 1944, tore through Uzbekistan's Fergana Valley in June. About 100 people were killed as large gangs roamed for days through the verdant valley, burning Meskhetians' homes and hunting down their owners.

Later that month, four people died in the Kazakhstan city of Novy Uzen when rioters attacked immigrants from the Caucasus, accusing them of setting up private businesses and finagling privileges in housing and other benefits.

#### Riots

Similar factors fuelled riots that exploded Feb 10 in Dushanbe, the capital of Tadzhikistan, killing 20 people by official count. Most of the refugees from the Caucasus are Christian Armenians fleeing ethnic strife with Azerbaijanis.

As many as 200,000 of Tadzhikistan's 5.1 million people are reported to be unemployed, and housing is in short supply in Dushanbe for the large families that are traditional for Central Asians.

Young villagers living in tents since an earthquake destroyed their homes or buried them in mud in January 1989 have been identified as rioters in Dushanbe, reportedly acting on rumours that

Armenian refugees fleeing ethnic violence in the Caucasus were being given scarce apartments.

Demands of protesters have included banning the sale of pork, which Muslims do not eat, and measures to combat unemployment.

They also want the Tadzhik language to use the Arabic script instead of Cyrillic. Tadzhik was written in Arabic script until 1930, when a Russian-style alphabet was imposed.

Other problems include animosity between the indigenous population and immigrants, many of whom are better skilled and therefore receive better jobs with higher pay and more comfortable housing.

Demographics also are an important factor in the unrest.

#### Ramifications

A population boom in the five Central Asian republics — Tadzhikistan, Turkmenia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia and Uzbekistan — means that in many areas, there are more people than jobs. A Soviet legislator has estimated that 6 million young people are not working or studying in Central Asia.

The population boom also has political ramifications. It threatens to shift the power balance, which now favours European Slavs in the north, to the Muslims in the south. The Central Asian republics

now account for 17 per cent of the total Soviet population, compared with 15 per cent in 1979 and 11 per cent in 1959.

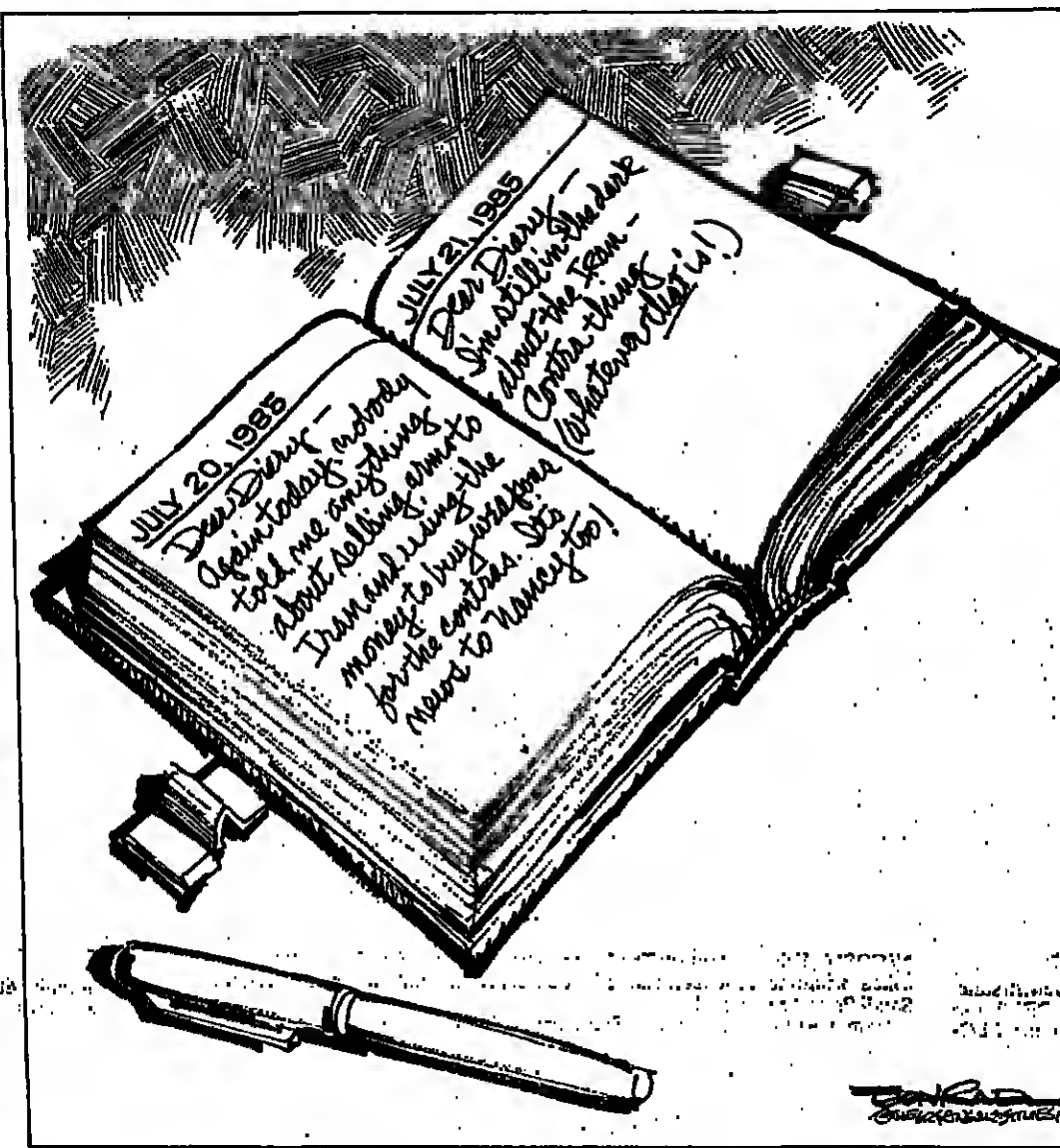
According to Western demographers, Central Asians could make up a majority of the Soviet Union's population within a century if current birthrates continue. Tadzhikistan has the highest birthrate of all 15 Soviet republics, with its population increasing 34.5 per cent in 1979-1989.

Most residents of the broad band separating the country's Slavic heartland from Iran, Afghanistan and China are of Muslim heritage and have taken advantage of the freedoms Gorbachev has offered to assert their religious interests.

The number of students in Islamic academics is increasing along with the publication of the Holy Quran and other religious books. The Kremlin is removing a Stalin-era ban on group religious education and plans to allow believers to organize charities.

Last year, the spiritual leader of Central Asia's Muslims was ousted after radicals accused him of corruption and ignorance of Islam.

In Central Asia, as elsewhere in the Soviet Union, the deteriorating environment also has become a rallying point.



## Democracy undergoes trial

AMMAN, Jordan, (CSM): A recent increase in armed infiltration attempts across Jordan's borders with Israel has highlighted the vulnerability of Amman's fledgling democracy, should Arab-Israeli peace efforts fail.

Over the past 13 months, about 10 incursions, a few organized by Palestinian groups but most by individuals in support of the Palestinian intifada (uprising), have put Jordan in an awkward position.

The government is caught between its strong commitment to ban infiltrations and its determination to pursue a democratization process, a Jordanian politician close to the government says.

The Jordanian authorities have not hesitated to arrest activists suspected of planning or taking part in infiltration attempts, even though these arrests have provoked anger among many Jordanians and Palestinians here. Yet at the same time, the government is allowing unprecedented political freedom for Palestinian and Jordanian activists as part of its liberalization drive.

#### Solution

"The government is aware of the risks, but firmly believes that democracy remains the solution to prevent the stalemate in the peace efforts from causing internal frictions," says a Jordanian official, referring to the country's Palestinian population.

Jordanians of Palestinian descent make up roughly half the country's 3.4 million population. Most have relatives in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"They have been watching with growing frustra-

tion scenes of the Israeli Army beating and killing their relatives," says a prominent Palestinian writer. Jordanian officials concede that one of the motivations behind the country's historic 1988 break with the West Bank — when it relinquished responsibility for the territory's residents to the PLO — was to "prevent the conflict from being transferred to Jordan."

"We actually avoided a potential big explosion here," a senior government official says.

The unprecedented move toward democracy is viewed by all here as essential to avoid internal Jordanian-Palestinian frictions. The democratization process involved lifting travel and work bans on thousands of political activists, many of Palestinian origin, and guaranteeing the freedom of political organizations and demonstrations in the country.

As a result, many members of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) factions who left after the military confrontation between the PLO and Jordanian Army in 1970, have started to come back.

#### Struggle

Officials to these groups, however, say that despite their commitment to armed struggle against Israel, they will stop organized infiltration attempts "so as not to give Israel a pretext to sabotage the democratization process."

PLO officials believe democratization will act as a safety valve for pressure from right-wing Israeli officials to set up a Palestinian homeland in Jordan. King Hussein and the PLO are enjoying unprecedented rapport. Their co-operation is aimed

in part at preventing a peace agreement that allows for permanent settlement of West Bank Palestinians and refugees in Jordan. Both Jordan and the PLO are alarmed that Israeli, Egyptian, and United States efforts to set up a direct Israeli-Palestinian dialogue exclude the PLO and Jordan from a final settlement.

"For Jordan, a settlement which does not address the national rights of the Palestinian people... will lead to an Israeli attempt to realize a Palestinian national expression in Jordan," an Arab diplomat says.

#### Failure

These concerns are aggravated by the apparent failure of current peace efforts, Israel's refusal to talk to the PLO, and Jordanian reports of Israeli provocation on the borders. According to Jordanian officials, on Jan 5 the Israeli Army shot at two unarmed farmers in the Jordan Valley.

But Jordanian and Palestinian officials are optimistic that Jordan's political liberalization can provide a basis for a solid relationship between Jordan and any emerging Palestinian entity and facilitate peace negotiations.

"If the process of democracy continues, Palestinians, especially in the West Bank, will seek such a strong association," a senior PLO official says. "We have no illusions that our fate are intertwined, but we do not want to be subservient to any Arab country. The recent (democratic) changes in Jordan make the idea of future unity very attractive and more realistic."

### Letters to the editor

#### Painful news

SIR: The recent Indian Airlines accident in India is a very painful news. The Airbus which was involved in the accident was a new plane and it has been in operation for a month only. A newspaper report said that the accident was caused by lack of training of the pilots and I was very shocked to read this.

I read in the newspaper some two weeks ago that scientists are planning to launch rockets beyond the solar system which is billions of miles away, to get information. Since we are in such an advanced stage in space technology, in my opinion commercial planes are supposed to be accident-free any time. But in reality what we are seeing is regular air accidents due to the various reasons.

I request the authorities to give pilots proper training to avoid accidents because these accidents make one nervous whenever one wants to fly.

H. S. Rao,  
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

### Future unsure

TOKYO, (AP): No matter who wins in national elections Sunday, political instability is likely to remain a part of Japanese life in the 1990s, with the opposition controlling one house of parliament and power struggles within the ruling party, analysts say.

Six political parties are campaigning for the 512 seats in the lower house of parliament in the election.

All the party leaders speak of a need for negotiations after the election to resolve a legislative gridlock, but "they agree on little else," said an analysis in Saturday's Yomiuri Shimbun, a conservative national daily newspaper.

Public opinion polls in the final week before the election show the governing Liberal Democratic Party has enough support to win a majority. But political analysts have not ruled out the possibility of an upset because the polls show 30 per cent or more of the voters still are undecided.

The conservative Liberal Democrats, in power since the party was formed in 1955, lost control of parliament's less powerful upper house last year after a series of sex and bribery scandals, coupled with unpopular taxes.

The election is critical for Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, 59, who had no firm power base when he became the party's leader last summer after two prime ministers were forced to step down because of the scandals.

Here are three possible scenarios in the post-election political scene:

If the Liberal Democrats fail to win a majority, Kaifu may step down immediately. Former foreign minister Shintaro Abe is the widely favoured candidate to replace Kaifu, but the opposition camp is likely to try to appoint popular socialist chairwoman Takako Doi as prime minister.

Liberal Democrat secretary-general Ichiro Ozawa has said his party will turn over the government to the opposition if it fails to win a majority.

"As we are already short of a majority in the upper house, I must admit the people's decision not to give us control of the lower house would have an immeasurably important significance," he told the Associated Press. "If we lose in this election, we have no choice but to turn over the government."

That would mean Japan could have a leftist-led coalition government for the first time in more than four decades. But the socialists and centrist opposition parties so far have failed to resolve policy differences, and it is uncertain whether they could agree on coalition terms.

Socialist secretary-general Tsuruo Yamaguchi has said the opposition camp will unite quickly if the parties win a majority in the lower house.

A wild card is the Communist Party, which is excluded by all sides from coalition membership, but may end up with a crucial swing vote. The communists held 23 seats in the outgoing house.

The Liberal Democrats may manage to stay in power by attracting conservative independents even if the party itself falls short of the 257 seats required for a majority. In the past four elections, this has happened twice.

Such a situation would increase pressure on Kaifu to step down to take responsibility, and the power struggle within the party would intensify.

If the Liberal Democrats win a clear majority, Kaifu is expected to form a strong government of his own, unlike the present one, which heavily reflects the will of party elders.

The first challenge for Kaifu will be to pass the budget by April 1. The lower house has the power to pass the budget even if the upper house votes it down, but the upper house's assent is required on other bills, such as tax measures or bills to help resolve trade disputes with the United States.

### Quote me

"Indictment does not surprise me at all because it represents a continuation of the political lynching and excesses of the Justice Department in this multi-year, multi-million dollar effort to investigate me and the Barry administration," — indicted Washington Mayor Marion Barry.

"Dr King taught us that unearned suffering is redemptive and clearly in the case of Mandela unearned suffering is redemptive. This man has suffered." — Jesse Jackson.

"The German people are not different..."

Picky

### Art Buchwald

## Publishers challenge readers

WHAT I like about today's magazines is that it is no longer possible to tell the difference between the editorial copy and the advertising.

With the sophisticated computer techniques at their disposal, publishers are constantly challenging the readers. They are doing this with "advertorials," which seems to be the wave of the future.

The other day I was reading a story in a new magazine about the king of Morocco.

"This is some king," I remarked to Hyman Bixby, an editor of the magazine. "Your reporters think he's hot stuff."

"Not our reporters. That's an advertorial," he

hadn't drawn my attention to it. I was all set to buy Moroccan saving bonds immediately after reading the story.

"The purpose of advertorials is to give the person in the news an opportunity to tell his side of the story. In the way we present two opinions for the price of one, and we make a lot more money besides."

I asked, "Doesn't it bother you that the editorial people have lost control of the copy in the magazine?"

"I don't know," he said. "I don't know if it bothers me or not. I don't know if it bothers you or not. I don't know if it bothers the king of Morocco or not. I don't know if it bothers the Nobel Peace Prize."

prefer a seven-page paid spread on it than no news at all about North Africa."

I said, "I guess the trick of an advertorial is to make the warning so small that no one can read it."

Hyman confided, "Our dream is to reduce the word 'advertising' to such tiny print that people will need a microscope to read it. At present, 90 per cent of our subscribers can't tell the difference. It's interesting to see the reaction of readers who are unaware that it is a paid spread. Most of them want to nominate the king of Morocco for the Nobel Peace Prize."

"Do readers like advertorials?"



## MIDEAST BRIEFS

## Smoking banned

DAMASCUS, Feb 18, (Reuters): Syria yesterday banned smoking in buses and other public vehicles because of the health danger, officials said. Offenders will be fined up to \$50.

## Workers expelled

SEOUL, Feb 18, (Reuters): Libya is expelling 316 workers of South Korea's Daewoo Ah Construction Industrial Company for staging a strike for higher pay, state radio said today.

The radio said 21 strike leaders arrived in Seoul last night and the rest would return home by next Friday.

## No progress on ties

ABU DHABI, Feb 18, (Reuters): Efforts by a third party to mediate between Libya and the United States have failed because of Washington's intransigence, the Libyan Foreign Minister Jeddah Azzouzi Al Talhi, was quoted as saying.

## Deputies clash

AMMAN, Feb 18, (Reuters): Islamist members of Jordan's Parliament clashed yesterday with leftist deputies over government plans to repeal a 1953 anti-communist law.

"I urge the houses to reject this draft law since it contradicts the constitution," said Abdullah Al Akashah, a Muslim Brotherhood deputy. "I wonder if democracy means we should go against the constitution."

## Talks stopped

ABU DHABI, Feb 18, (Reuters): Kuwait-mediated talks between the United States and South Yemen about a resumption of diplomatic ties have stopped, South Yemen's Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali, was quoted today as saying.

## Ferry capsize

ALEXANDRIA, Feb 18, (AP): Nine persons, including seven children, drowned yesterday in north-western Egypt when their makeshift ferry capsized, a police source said today.

The source, who declined to be named, said police had arrested the owner because his makeshift ferry did not have a license.

## Arafat pledges

TUNIS, Feb 18, (Reuters): PLO leader Yasser Arafat has pledged to try to win the release of US journalist Terry Anderson, kidnapped in Lebanon almost five years ago, Anderson's sister said today.

"He promised to do the very best he could and I'm sure that he can do that," Peggy Say said after meeting Arafat in Tunis.

## Teachers strike

ALGIERS, Feb 18, (Reuters): Algerian primary school teachers voted yesterday to continue a 10-day-old strike affecting hundreds of thousands of children, Algerian radio said.

Primary schools in more than 120 of the country's 48 provinces have shut in protest at a new professional statute setting salaries and benefits.

## Child hostages

ANKARA, Feb 18, (Reuters): Troops moved into the ruins of a house where Kurdish separatists were reported to be holding seven children hostage and found two rebels dead, Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency said today.

But officials then refused to say what had happened to the children or their father, 38-year-old Osman Kaya, and Anatolian quoted one official in the main regional city of Diyarbakir as saying today that no hostages had been held.

## Freighter sinks

RABAT, Feb 18, (Reuters): The Japanese-owned freighter Marwood has sunk off the Moroccan coast but the captain and all 18 Filipino crew were saved, the Casablanca Port Authority said.

## 52 rebels killed

KHARTOUM, Feb 18, (Reuters): Government-sponsored forces in Sudan have killed 52 southern rebels in two separate battles, state Radio Omdurman said.

It said seven men from the popular forces, the name given by Sudan's military rulers to pro-government tribal militias, were killed and three wounded.

## Saudi newspapers rap Iranian regime

NICOSIA, Feb 18, (Reuters): Saudi Arabian newspapers today fiercely attacked the Iranian leadership, calling it intellectually retarded and a symbol of terrorism.

"Eleven years have passed since the Iranian regime came to power led by (Ayatollah) Khomeini and the regime has become a symbol of intellectual retardation and terrorism," Al-Jazira said.

"The Iranian regime has cut off all links with the times it is living in, especially as far as its internal situation is concerned," the paper said in an editorial quoted by the Saudi Press Agency.

"All you newspaper said: 'While it was thought that the wave of terrorism exported by Iran would die down with Khomeini's death... we see that it has increased in the world because Iran considers using terrorism in its foreign policy, legal.'"



Sheikh Zayed in Bahrain

President of the UAE Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan (right) talks with the Amir of Bahrain Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa on his arrival in Bahrain. (Reuters wirephoto)



Flee from battered streets

A Christian family flee the battered area of Ain Al Roumneh and walk out from a battered street full of landmines planted by the Lebanese Forces militiamen before they deserted the place for Lebanese troops loyal to general Michel Aoun. (Reuters wirephoto)

## PFLP to boycott Cairo talks

## Escalate intifada call

## OIC seeks UK help to halt Jews

NICOSIA, Feb 18, (Agencies): The radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine has called on Palestinians to take up arms against Israel within the occupied territories and across the borders of the Jewish state.

"The Damascus-based PFLP also criticised the policies of the PLO-backed leadership of the uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and said the front would not attend proposed Palestinian-Israeli peace talks."

"We in the PFLP oppose Israeli-Palestinian talks scheduled to take place in Cairo and will not attend them," it said in a statement received by Reuters in Cyprus today.

"What is needed is more struggle through escalating the intifada (uprising), backing it with fire power... providing it with money and supporting it with operations across Arab borders," the statement said.

The statement, dated February 15, criticised the unified leadership of the uprising which groups major Palestinian factions including the PFLP, saying the leadership backed the proposed Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo although this was a matter which should be left to the PLO.

The PFLP statement said the PLO's central council had "specifically put the condition that the PLO should form the Palestinian delegation and that the Cairo talks would only be a gate leading to an international conference."

"Washington, Cairo and Tel Aviv want the Cairo meeting to lead to elections," a reference to Israeli proposals for elections in the occupied territories.

"We leave this matter to the executive committee of the PLO to give its stand on it," it said.

Israelis shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian schoolgirl today after their cars were stoned in the occupied West Bank city of Nabulus, residents said.

They identified the dead girl as Sawwan Shakheir and said the vehicles involved belong to Israeli settlers and the army.

The army earlier reported two unidentified bodies were found in

NICOSIA, Feb 18, (Reuters): The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has asked Britain to do what it can to halt Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, the Saudi Press Agency said.

Hamid Al Ghabed, General Secretary of the 46-member body, made the request at a meeting yesterday with Alan Munro, Britain's ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

"The OIC is concerned over the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and the Israeli government's intention to settle them in occupied Palestinian territories," the agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Ghabed as saying.

He asked Britain, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, to intervene to try to halt the exodus.

About 5,000 Soviet Jews a month are arriving in Israel and hundreds of thousands are expected in the next few years.

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In the occupied Gaza Strip, two Palestinians were wounded by army gunfire during clashes, Arab sources said. A 23-year-old man suffered a wound in the face and a 13-year-old boy was hit in the head and the arm.

Israeli soldiers backed by helicopters raided a West Bank village and tracked down Palestinian fugitives in nearby caves, arresting more than 100 suspected uprising activists, the army and Israeli radio reported.

Algerian officials sought to intervene to prevent a breakaway movement from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine faction of the PLO after a challenge to its pro-Soviet leader Nayef Hawazneh, PLO sources said.

Masked Palestinian youths are watched by village children as they march in a ceremony outside the Jerusalem in honour of two martyrs whose pictures are carried out front. (Reuters wirephoto)

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## Rebels scuttling peace: Najib

KABUL, Feb 18, (AP): President Najib charged Saturday that Muslim rebels are thwarting peace efforts in Afghanistan by making his resignation a precondition for negotiations.

"The extremist groups have put forward this proposal as a pretext for continued war or as an obstacle to a solution of Afghanistan's problems," Najib said at a news conference.

Najib, the former head of the dreaded Khabd secret police, said his peace plans have been repeatedly rejected by the rebels.

On Thursday, during an address to the nation on the eve of the first anniversary of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, Najib offered the mujahedeen a six-month ceasefire.

So far the rebels have rejected all ceasefires

offered by the Soviet-backed Khabd government and have declined to negotiate with Najib and his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. They insist he must step down first.

During the news conference, Najib blamed the 12-year-old civil war on the "unreconcilability of the various extremist groups in Afghanistan — against the interests or to the neglect of Afghan people by creating obstacles to the peace process."

Najib, speaking in his native Dari language through an interpreter, answered questions from foreign reporters for more than an hour at the Foreign Ministry.

He reiterated his Feb 15 call for new parliamentary elections and said he would

accept the results, even if they went against him.

The mujahedeen "consistently claim they control the majority of land in Afghanistan and the majority of the people are with them. If that is so, let's allow free elections and see," he said.

He said one year of independence from Soviet armed support was evidence of his government's strength and stability, while the "opposition has not only lost credibility among Afghans, but also in world public opinion."

"If we want peace in Afghanistan, arms stockpiles should be evacuated from the Republic of Afghanistan under the supervision of the United Nations," Najib said.

## Jordan, Iraq to form air squadron

AMMAN, Feb 18, (AP): A senior military official said today that Jordan and Iraq have agreed to create a joint air force training squadron on advanced jet fighters to confront growing Israeli threats.

"The squadron would help us face the threats of Israel against the Arab world," the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Israel's air force vastly outmatches Jordan's small and aging fleet of fighters and Jordanian officials say its warplanes often fly unchallenged over Jordanian territory.

But Iraq, which borders Jordan to the east, has a large and battle-trained air force built up during the 1980-88 war with Iran. It also has increased military co-operation with Egypt, the most powerful Arab country and the only one to have made peace with Israel.

The official said Jordan's King Hussein and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq recently reached tentative agreement on the squadron and said a formal announcement is expected soon.

The official said the agreement called for "joint training for air force personnel from both countries on new and advanced warplanes."

He said those would include an undisclosed number of French-built Mirage 2000 jet fighters. Both countries have ordered such jets, but Jordan's order is in abeyance because of financial difficulties.

Both countries currently operate older Mirage F-1s, which military analysts say are outclassed by Israel's F-16s.

"Jordan saw it was necessary to reorganise Arab military co-operation (especially) during this period when Israeli threats are growing," the official said.

He said those threats included a planned mass migration of Soviet Jews to Israel and Palestinian territories it occupies, as well as repeated claims by Israeli leaders that Jordan should be turned into a substitute homeland for Palestinians.

In Iraq, army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron was quoted as saying Israel was not concerned about the reports of a joint training squadron formed by the Iraqi and Jordanian air forces.

Shomron told a group of high school students in Akko that it was too early to say if the agreement signalled a change in Jordanian policy, Israeli radio reported.

Tehran dailies slam soccer riot

NICOSIA, Feb 18, (Reuters): Iranian newspapers today slammed "opportunists" for joining a football riot in Tehran which an opposition group said turned into a major anti-government protest.

"Opportunists are always waiting in the wings to fish in troubled waters," Jomhuri Eslami said of rioting on Friday outside Shiroudi stadium.

Kayhan newspaper said in an editorial: "The opportunists who take advantage of supporting events to pass themselves off as ordinary people picked up rocks and showed their love of sports by breaking the windows of the stadium."

Police said the disturbance was a soccer riot sparked by the last-minute cancellation of a game because of bad weather. They said they arrested 30 hoodlums stoning buildings.

But Iran's main opposition group, the Iraq-based Mojahedeen e-Khalq, said Revolutionary Guards killed several people taking part in a big anti-government demonstration.

In a statement sent to Reuters in Nicosia, the group said Tehran residents marched in the city.

## Khaddafi in Cairo talks

## Arab issues discussed

CAIRO, Feb 18, (Agencies): Libyan leader Col. Muammar Khaddafi held talks with Egyptian President Mubarak in the central resort of Aswan today, amid signs of growing co-operation between the former Arab foes, and a trend toward greater moderation in the Arab world.

The two leaders were scheduled to resume their talks after a mid-day break over supper, Egyptian government officials said.

The government officials said Mubarak's talks with Khaddafi were "friendly," and focused on improving bilateral relations, the migration of Soviet Jews into Israel, and the growing rift between Cairo and the PLO.

The two leaders also discussed prospects for an Arab summit, which King Hussein of Jordan proposed earlier this month to discuss the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mubarak is scheduled to pay his first visit to Moscow on March 19, and Khaddafi would like the Egyptian leader to persuade the Kremlin to call a halt to the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel, the officials said.

Egypt's official Middle East News Agency Mena said the Mubarak-Khaddafi talks were "especially important," because they came at a "critical stage" for the Arab world. Mena pointed to Israel's "intransigence" toward ongoing Mideast peace efforts, and the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel, as issues topping the agenda of bilateral talks.

Khaddafi last visited Egypt last October, after a 12-year rift with Egypt. The North African neighbours fought land and air battles along their common border in July, 1977, and Tripoli broke ties with Cairo in December of the same year — one year after late Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat made his historic visit to Jerusalem.

Egypt's recent return to the Arab fold after years of isolation, following Sadat's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, prompted two radical Arab states — Libya and Syria — to normalise ties with Cairo.

Since then Libya, a major oil exporter, has offered to accommodate and feed more than a million Egyptian peasant farmers, known as Felahin, to help reclaim Libyan desert land and help it produce more food. Cairo and Tripoli agreed to reopen their borders last year.

Egyptian and Libyan agriculture ministers were discussing the project on the side-lines of the Mubarak Khaddafi talks, the third in four months, Egyptian officials said.

Libya's Planning Minister Mohammad Lotfi Farhad, said his country was willing to accommodate Felahin — who form 80 per cent of Egypt's 55-million-strong population — in Libya's southern deserts.

Sharon quits but vows to fight

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 18, (Reuters): Israel's outspoken advocate of force, Trade Minister Ariel Sharon formally quit the government today and began a campaign to derail any attempt to convene Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

"I fulfilled my duties according to the attorney-general's orders and gave my letter of resignation today to the prime minister," Sharon said as he walked out of a government meeting, ending a 13-year-long cabinet career.

"I will continue my struggle from the outside," the former tank commander and architect of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon told reporters as dozens of supporters shouted his nickname "Arik."

Sharon remains central committee chairman in the Likud Party where an outspoken minority appears to support his goal of ousting Yitzhak Shamir as leader and prime minister. His resignation as trade minister takes effect on Tuesday.

The headline minister announced he would step down six days ago. His statement turned a meeting of Shamir's Likud Party into a shambles but provided a rallying point for opposition to current peace moves.

Sharon, who has repeatedly vowed that if made defence minister he would crush the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, called a news conference for later today.

The burly 61-year-old has angrily attacked Shamir's handling of hesitant moves toward Israeli-Palestinian talks, accusing him of undermining the Jewish state's security.

In the cabinet, Sharon campaigned to limit Shamir's room for negotiations with Palestinians. Once outside it, he said he would make clear he opposed the entire process.

Avalanche kills 21 in Iran...

ATHENS, Feb 18, (UPI): At least 21 people were killed when an avalanche hit a village in the sardash region of northwestern Iran, the official Islamic republic news agency said.

An Iran dispatch monitored in Athens said 110 people were trapped in the avalanche which hit the village of the slopes of the Zanki-Doul mountain on Friday, but 79 were rescued and 21 were killed.

There was no immediate word of the remaining 10, but Iran said a search for them was still going on when last reports came in. The news agency did not name the village.

The Zanki-Doul mountain is located in the Sardash region, some 360 miles (580 km) west of Tehran. Heavy snowfall was reported in the Iranian mountains last week.

... accidents kill 23 in Turkey

ANKARA, Feb 18, (



# Seventh Sky rocks Kuwait like a hurricane

By Mohammed Elshelikh

I HAD always wondered whether there would ever be a real rock concert in Kuwait, so when I had the chance to see "Like A Hurricane", it was a good opportunity to find out.

As I arrived outside the Andalus cinema, I was amazed at the number of people who turned up to attend the concert. Some of them were real rock fans, mostly dressed up in jeans with backpatches of Marillion, Guns 'n' Roses, Judas Priest and other

rock groups on their jackets. However, there were a lot of funk music fans who were there for the fun of it or maybe they thought they were going to get a earful of funk and pop music. Personally, I had my doubts about this being a real rock concert.

I entered the concert hall to the tunes of funk and pop songs aired from a tape and my doubts increased, but as the lights went out and the curtains began to rise to the sound of a heavy metal tune played on a guitar, my

doubts vanished.

It didn't take long for me to recognise the tune, it was "Black Out" by The Scorpions. At the beginning, the twanging of the guitar covered the vocals of Mohammed Abueljebain but this was quickly adjusted. Once the song was over, Abueljebain stepped off stage and Sandy Kilada stepped forward to sing the next tune: "Rush Hour" by Jane Wieldin.

Whenever they didn't have to sing, Kilada and Abueljebain stayed backstage leaving the rest

of the band to show off their talents. In my point of view, Ammar Albini was probably the star of the concert and the most humble of them all. He managed to convert the synthesised "Heart" by The Pet Shop Boys into a rock tune very similar to a Jesus And Mary Chain song. However, the songs that really got the crowd roaring and joining in were "I Want It All", "We Will Rock You" both by Queen, "Pour Some Sugar On Me" by Def Leppard, "Like A Prayer" by Madonna and the finale "Jailhouse Rock" by Motley Crew. As the main theme of this concert was "Be Cool! Say Yes I Am A Nonsmoker", Abueljebain dedicated Prince's "Sign Of The Times" to all those smokers who should kick the butt. He also altered the lyrics of The Scorpions' "Big City Nights" to "Kuwait City Nights" to honour Kuwait's 29th National Day.

Overall, I quite enjoyed this concert. It wasn't Marillion but it was good. During the break, I met up with some of the audience and asked them what they had to say about it.

Yousef Musmar, 18, a microbiology student said: "I heard the band during rehearsals and I really think they worked hard. My favourite songs were 'I Want It All' and 'We Will Rock You'."

Ahmed Al Duraini, 22, an engineer said: "It started off nice. My favourite song was 'I Just Died In Your Arms Tonight' and 'I Think I Want It All' was performed brilliantly. All in all I'm having a

good time."

Ruba Al Mosa, 21, a medical technology student thought the concert stuck because it was far too loud! "The only saving graces were 'Pour Some Sugar On Me' and 'I Just Died In Your Arms Tonight'", he said.

Ashraf Al Mosa, 20, an electrical engineering student said the concert could have been better.

Thomas Flaten and Amer Abdullah of the UAS said: "Mohammed Abueljebain was crap. The rest were good. Murtaza can't sing and Ammar is absolutely brilliant. The best song was 'Brothers In Arms'."

Dave Gupta, 16, a student of ASK said: "Murtaza played well and Reza was good overall. The best song was 'Brothers In Arms'. I must admit that Mohammed sang 'Footloose' well but they completely messed up 'Jailhouse Rock'."

Hashem Adnani said: "I think Ammar was exceptionally talented and Murtaza's voice really fits in with rock. My favourite song was 'Pour Some Sugar On Me'."

Amr Elssamadisy, 19, computer engineering at Kuwait University said: "It's a good start but it needs more co-ordination with singing. 'Rock You Like A Hurricane' was my favourite song."

Ali Al Sherief, 22, mathematics student at Kuwait University said: "As amateurs, this was well performed. Ammar is really talented. 'Pour Some Sugar On Me' was my favourite."



## WHAT'S ON

### ARTS

#### Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah

14 Feb. Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem exhibition, opening 4.30 pm co-organized by the British Council Wed 14 February - Wed 21 February. This is a specially designed photographic exhibition which is accompanied by wall text and is on display for only a week. Dr Bourgoyne who will give a lecture in Arabic and in English is author of the architectural catalogue which accompanies the exhibition.

**Seminar**  
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453258.

**Hobby Centre**  
FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

**Kuwait Handicrafts Exhibition**  
FIFTY-SEVEN Kuwaiti artists will display handicrafts at and the Kuwait Handicrafts Exhibition that opens at the Regency Palace Hotel on Feb 24. It will be opened by Sheikh Salem Al Sahab, Interior Minister. A wide range of handicrafts, ranging from paintings to jewellery, will be displayed. The exhibition will be open to the public until Feb 18. Opening hours: 8.30 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome.

**SOCIAL**  
Bliss 'n' Pieces  
An interesting 5 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

### Craft Centre

MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

**Kuwait Welsh Society**  
ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dinner Thursday 1st March 1990 at Messiah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

### Flag at half-mast

ON the occasion of Shaheed Dibas (Martyrs' Day), the Bangladesh flag will be hoisted at half-mast at a solemn ceremony by the Ambassador at the Bangladesh Embassy premises, Khalidiya on Feb 21 at 9.00 am. All Bangladeshis are invited to attend the ceremony.

**Shaheed Day**  
THE Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, will hold a cultural function on the occasion of "Shaheed Day" on Feb 24, at 6.30 pm at the Bangladesh embassy premises, Khalidiya. Mr. K. M. Shehabuddin, the ambassador, will be the chief guest. All Bangladeshis are invited.

**Carnival Fiesta '90 - cancelled**  
YMCA Incredible S.C. Regret to inform that their above function is cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances and the inconvenience caused is deeply regretted. Organisers.

**Goan Welfare Society**  
MARCH 2 - Friday Goan Welfare Society meeting will be held at Ramada Salam Hotel on 2nd March at 10 am followed by a reception at 12 noon for the Goan football team who won the exhibition match recently in Kuwait Goa vs Kerala.

**Children's variety show**  
RANGDHANU, a children's variety show which includes a play, will be staged on March 1, Thursday at the Theatre Hall of Kuwait University Law Faculty, Shuwaikh campus, at 6.30 pm. For cards contact 4840759, 4312730, 4312380, 4733106 or 3729425.

### Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant. Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

### Tivim Centre

"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the four grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers - 2441860 Casimiro.

**Ladies International League**  
LIL newcomers: A coffee morning will be held on Feb 26 at the Sheraton Hotel from 10 am to 12 noon. New comers to LIL and Kuwait will be most welcome. For further information please call Ann on 5316905.

**Robbie in the lobby**  
ROBBIE 2002 a remote control robot over 1.2 metre tall will be performing in the main lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel on 23rd, 24th and 25th February at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. It can greet, talk, rotate, bow backwards and forwards, tap dance and perform many other tricks to entertain children of all ages. It has made over 200 television appearances the most successful being the British TV Quiz show 3.2.1 having over 17 million viewers and was seen across the world. Tickets on sale now. KDI.000 per person. Tel: 2530000 ext 8040.

**Oil and Gas Catalogue Show**  
THE Commercial Service of the American embassy announces an "Oil and Gas Catalogue Show" at the Kuwait Continental Hotel during Feb 19-20, 1990, between 8.30 am and 8.30 pm. Catalogues of more than 200 US companies in the Oil and Gas industry will be displayed. Interested firms are invited to attend.

For further information please contact. Abdulla Mejalli. Tel: 2424151 ext 267. Fax: 2407368.

### Singapore festival

SAS Kuwait Hotel will feature Singapore festival on 20th and 21st February at The Tent. The oriental extravaganza will present lion dancers, Chinese dancers, finger painter plus elaborate buffet of popular Singaporean recipes prepared by Singaporean chefs. First of its kind in Kuwait, the show was put up in co-ordination with Singapore Tourist Promotion Board and Singapore Airlines and aims to foster closer relations between the two countries. Tickets available at SAS hotel. For reservations, please call 5657000 ext 401 or 403.

### Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the 11 Annual One Act Play Competition to be held in May 1990. The competition is open to plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

### British Council

LECTURE: ACCESS COURSES FOR YOUR FIRST DEGREE Monday 19 February at 6.00 pm: A special talk for students from non-British schools (and their parents) who would like to go to Britain for their degree after they have finished school. There will be lots of information about the different routes that overseas students can take to gain entrance to a British Degree Course. The talk will be followed by a question and answer session. Everyone is welcome. There is no admission charge but please telephone us to reserve your seat. Tel: 253 3204/253 3227 and ask for the education office.

**Hotel Meridien Kuwait**  
Envoy Thai cuisine every Saturday night at La Brasserie in addition to its daily lavish buffet. Thai specialties are prepared by the chef in front of guests.

**COWBOY NIGHT**  
EVERY SUNDAY: Enjoy live country music, western decor and hearty ranch food - prime ribs, burgers, tacos and great desserts including mom's apple pie. Visit La Brasserie for a real country boozdown.

**EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT LA BRASSERIE:** Enjoy Chinese cuisine in addition to its lavish daily buffet. Chinese specialties are prepared in front of guests.

**Flute recital**  
PRESENTED by a group of 4 young Austrian artists at the Kuwait International Hotel on 24th February at 8.00 pm. Winners of the first prize at the Youth Musicians' Festival in Austria, they have recorded for the radio and television in Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, USSR, Egypt and Austria. In the Terrace Room. Tel: 2530000 ext 8039/8040.

### APPROB essay competition

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) has extended the last date of its essay competition from 15th March to 15th April. The essay competition on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan" is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD 100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr. Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact: Tel. APPROB: 2423315 Fax: 5323751.

### Carnival Dinner Nite

CARNIVAL Dinner Nite by The Entertainers will be held at the SAS Hotel (The Tent) with music provided by Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers on 22nd Feb 1990 from 20.30 hours onwards. Highlights of the evening: Parade by King Momo. Crowning of Carnival Queen.

Winner will receive KD 100 gift voucher from Jashanmal and Partners). Ramba Samba dance competition, group prizes. Free Kuwait Airways tickets to be won to Cyprus and Bahrain and an evening of fun, fun, fun. For further details please contact Alex 2414427, Chopticks Chinese takeaway 5617243, Al Faraj travel agent, Souk Al Mutahada.

### Hobby Centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making - For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

### SPORTS

#### Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait

Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events ... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

**7-a-side football**  
VARCA Sporting Centre will organise its 7th annual one day 7-a-side football festival on February 25 at Sour Grounds to mark the Kuwait National Day. The draw will be held on Friday, February 23 at 10 am. For further details and entry forms please contact VSC members or Tel. 5331940 or 2410461 and 4765070.

# Annual prize day

## New Indian School

THE New Indian School, Jabriya, held their 'Annual Prize Day', on Thursday, 15th Feb 1990 at the Indian Arts Circle. A.K. Budhiraja, Ambassador of India and Mrs Budhiraja were the Chief Guests of Honour. About two hundred students were awarded merit prizes and proficiency certificates for their outstanding scholastic achievements for the academic year 1989-90.

The large gathering of distinguished guests included, Dr K.T.B. Manon, Vice Patron, Ahmad Hussain Hydar, the school sponsor, members of the board of trustees, principals of other schools, officials of the Ministry of Private Education and host of parents and well-wishers.

The programme commenced with a reading from the Holy Quran. The Vice Principal, Dr P. Soma Kumar welcomed the gathering. The principal, S.S. Ganju presented the school report. The report highlighted the performance and achievements of the school in the curricular and co-curricular arenas. The Principal also stressed that the training and discipline imparted to the pupils at N.I.S. was well oriented and struck a perfect balance between the development of the body and the mind. Budhiraja distributed the prizes for the Primary Section and A.K. Budhiraja honoured the prize winners of the senior school. Earlier the Chief guests were welcomed in the traditional Indian style. G. Mathews, head mistress, proposed a vote of thanks.

In his address, the Ambassador of India, A.K. Budhiraja complimented the principal and the staff on the excellent standard of discipline and the high scholastic level maintained by the school. He also stressed the need that the training imparted should be career-oriented so that the students passing out are well prepared to face the highly competitive world.

The 'Variety Entertainment' presented by the pupils was deeply appreciated by one and all. The Tiny Tots with their beaming faces sent a wave of cheerfulness through the audience, as they sang their 'welcome song'. 'The Sleeping Beauty', a playlet by the primary section, was well enacted and drew thunderous applause. The Arabic Dance and the Malayalam Dance were full of colour and rhythm, and stepped up the tempo of our heartbeats. The English play - 'The Other Side' - by the seniors depicted the agonised thoughts through an executioner's mind as he is about to legally kill his victim on the electric chair. The School choir rendered a patriotic song in Hindi followed by a Malayalam festival song. The entire programme was well planned and executed to a precise time schedule. This clearly indicated the training that had been imparted to the children. The principal and his staff deserve all praise and are to be complimented on the excellent standard of performance.



## NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait City  
Al Ghanim Pharmacy  
Fahed Al Salem Street  
Al Mejad Pharmacy  
Abdullah Al Mubarak Street

Hawalli and Al Nagra  
Al Saada Pharmacy  
Al Othman Street

Al Sahmya and Rumethiya  
Al Raed Pharmacy  
Al Rumethiya  
Amman Street

Al Fahsheel and Al Ahmadi  
Al Ahmadi Pharmacy  
Al Ahmadi market

Jeeb Al Shuyookh  
Wahran Pharmacy  
Souk Street

Al Jahra  
Al Abrar Pharmacy  
Da'abal Street

## CINEMA

Al Andalus  
Man on Fire  
Al Sahmya  
Hall Booked  
Al Hamra  
Arabic film  
Drive-in  
Arabic film  
Al Firdous  
Agnes Path  
Fahsheel Open  
Ninja Operation  
Al Jahra  
Enter the Dragon  
Granada  
Like Father Like Son  
Sulabikhat  
Hot to Trot  
Jeeb  
Nokol Shehzada  
Ahmadi Drive-in  
Sicilian

## PRAYERS

Fajr 5.04 am  
Zohr 12.02 pm  
Asr 3.15  
Maghreb 5.40  
Isha 6.57

## TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1		KTV 2	
<b>MORNING</b>			
9.30	Opening and Holy Quran	12.25	Khalaf News Summary
9.40	Sabah Al Khair, news	12.30	The World Today via Satellite
9.50	Cartoon Serial	12.45	Holy Quran and Closesdown
10.15	Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)		
10.30	Shua Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial (part 8)	6.00	Opening announcement and Holy Quran
11.45	From My Kitchen: local programme	6.10	Winnie The Pooh. A cartoon series for children
12.05	Al Malqouf: weekly local serial (part 8), starring Abdul Hussain Abdul Redha, Mohammed Jaber, and Abdullah Khraibin	6.30	Wild South. "Island Eaten By Rats" A look at an island in the South Pacific invaded by rats. The biological balance is deteriorated to great extent...
12.30	News Summary	7.00	Roving Report. A weekly round-up of local, Arab and international news.
12.35	Holy Quran and Closesdown	7.30	Trap
<b>EVENING</b>		8.00	News in English
4.00	Opening and Holy Quran	8.30	Around The World. A variety of topics and events from all over the world.
4.15	The World Today via Satellite (repetition)	9.00	Tour of Duty: "Popular Forces" Seymour is forced into using a gun, killing an attacker. Alex, meanwhile, is being flown to a village in order to do a story on the dislocation of Vietnamese civilians. She is rescued from VC attack by a group of orphans who teach her something of the strength of the attachment the Vietnamese feel for their land.
4.45	Saham Al Fadh: cartoon serial	10.00	Homeroom
5.15	Mama Anisa and Children: local children programme, prepared and presented by Samia Mohammed	10.30	"Miss Annie Rooney" Starring Shirley Temple, William Gargan, Gloria Holden. A poor Irish girl loves a rich boy, their young love rapidly blossoms, but she gets opposition from the boy's parents...
5.45	Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements	12.00	News in Brief
6.00	Wa Qala Hakem: Historical Serial (part 10)	12.15	Magazine D'Actualite
7.00	Varities		
7.15	Holy Quran and Science: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi		
8.00	Cultural Programme (part 5)		
8.30	Good Evening and local news		
9.00	News in Arabic		
9.45	Omsiyat Al Ethneen: Local Programme, Prepared and Presented by Mohammed Al Barjes		
10.15	Ahlam Sagheera: local serial (part 10)		
11.15	Al Mawed: variety programme (part 7) with guest star Nasreen prepared and presented by Tawfeeq		



## Pakistan Muslim Centre honours Afridi

Pakistan Muslim Centre arranged farewell party in honour of Saeed Akbar Afridi, first secretary of Pakistan Embassy in Kuwait at Holiday Inn Hotel recently. Zahid Saad, ambassador, embassy staff, and a large number of Pakistani citizens attended this occasion and warmly appreciated his services for Pakistani community in Kuwait.



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Al Bahar, Unilever hold reception

THE Mohamed Abdulrahman Al Bahar Group of Companies and Unilever held a reception at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Kuwait on Saturday to celebrate the appointment of the Al Bahar Company as distributor in Kuwait for Unilever Frozen Food Products Line.

Al Bahar already distributes many of Unilever's leading brands and this new appointment adds to it, the world famous Birds Eye, Walls and Flora brands to the existing range.

Unilever, the world's largest consumer products company is also the world's largest supplier of frozen foods and ice cream.

Terry Wood-Unilever Gulf Regional Manager, Peter Baxendale, Marketing Manager, Frozen Foods and Walid Zamani, Manager for Kuwait area, were also present and jointly announced future plans to the major trade customers.

"During 1990, Unilever will demonstrate its dedication in expanding the company's food business in Kuwait with the launching of 23 new frozen food lines, including the internationally successful Walls Ice Cream Range," said Peter Baxendale.

Walid Saleh Suleiman, General Manager of Al Bahar company welcomed the audience and expressed his pride in the success that Al Bahar and Unilever have achieved through their joint collaboration and association.

## Iran, S.Korea to step up trade

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Feb. 18 (AP) South Korean Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Lee Bong-Suh met yesterday with Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Agazadeh, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said the two discussed ways of expanding economic ties and technical and scientific co-operation during their meeting in Tehran.

Possible fields of co-operation discussed by the two ministers included transfer of technology by Seoul, training manpower, and co-operation in petrochemicals and energy, the radio said.

South Korea could also help Iran in shipbuilding, oil rigs, power stations and dams, the radio said.

## Record profit

DUBAI, Feb. 18, (Reuters) Emirates Bank International has reported a record profit last year of 111.88 dirhams (\$30.5 million), up from 60.30 million (\$16.4 million) in 1988.

The bank, based in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, said in a statement it will propose a cash dividend of 10 per cent, up from 7.5 per cent in 1988. This will mean 45 million dirhams (\$12.3 million) distributed to shareholders.

Profits in the year ended December 31 were helped by a large drop in loan-loss provisions to 4.14 million dirhams (\$1.1 million) from 21.59 million (\$5.9 million) in 1988.

# Stock market ignores Drexel demise

## The week in business

### US likely to avert recession

NEW YORK, Feb. 18, (UPI) The Commerce Department had good news for the US economy this week, reporting that the nation's trade deficit shrank by \$3.1 billion in December to a five-year low of \$7.2 billion.

The United States managed to slice nearly \$10 billion off its perennial trade deficit which stood at a relatively low \$108.6 billion in 1989, its best performance since 1984's \$106.7 billion. The deficit for 1988 was \$118.5 billion.

But there was nothing to cheer about at Drexel Burnham Lambert Group Inc., the junk bond giant which went from record

profits to bankruptcy proceedings and the virtual closing of its operations in the short span of four years.

Wall Street followed without much compassion the collapse of the once haughty brokerage firm which at one time controlled up to 40 per cent of the high-risk, high-yield \$200 billion junk bond market.

Drexel had been seeking a last-minute investor without success. The firm defaulted on \$100 million in loans Tuesday and filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the US bankruptcy code hours later. As the firm liquidated its trading positions, most of Drexel's 5,300 employees were left looking

for other jobs.

The stock market, which rose steadily throughout the week, mostly ignored the Drexel demise which a financial services industry analyst described as "maybe news for Wall Street but not on main Street USA."

Junk bonds were also closely associated with the woes of another financial service firm, Integrated Resources Inc., which filed for bankruptcy protection Tuesday under pressure from its creditors.

Integrated had largely financed its rapid growth in the late 1980s through junk bonds handled by Drexel, but could not rely on

assets of about \$700 million to fend off creditors owed a total \$1.6 billion.

Investors turned to reliable investments and actively bought shares issued for the first time Thursday by the Reader's Digest Association Inc., the publisher of the most widely read magazine in the world.

The initial sale of 25 million shares of non-voting stock was priced by the company at \$20 per share and the stock soared to \$22 before the closing of its first trading session.

Another stock to attract investors this week was International Business Machines Corp., which unveiled nine powerful workstations and computing units Thursday.

Introducing the aggressively priced disc system-6000 family, president Jack Kuehler said IBM has "what it takes to be the leader in the market" currently valued at \$7 billion and expected to grow by an annual 25 in 30 per cent in the coming weeks.

IBM also reported Tuesday it has produced a 16-million-bit computer memory superchip, with four times the storage capacity of the most powerful chips used today in the industry.

The new superchip can store the equivalent of 1,600 pages of text on a surface smaller than a postage stamp, while information can be read in less than a blink, or a record speed of 1.25th of a second.

Among the most watched earnings reports, publishing and entertainment giant Time Warner Inc. announced record revenues of \$3.09 billion and a loss of \$222 million for the fourth quarter, reflecting Time Inc's \$14 billion leveraged acquisition of Warner Communications Inc. in August.

Toy makers holding their annual fair in New York said sales amounted to about \$13.4 billion in 1989, up 5 per cent from \$12.75 billion in 1988.

Washington had more good news about the US economy.

### Chalabi, Sheikh Ali discuss market trend

## Oil ministers review quotas

BAGHDAD, Feb. 18, (Reuters) Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdulrahman Al Chalabi visited Kuwait on Saturday for talks on Opec oil quotas, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

Chalabi told INA on his return from the brief visit that he and Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa discussed "the situation of the oil market in the light of the recent agreement of Opec on production ceiling and quotas assigned for each member."

Kuwait said last week it had exceeded its Opec-assigned output quota. Diplomats said Chalabi's visit was intended to persuade Kuwait to observe its quota in case overproduction led to lower prices.

Meanwhile Christian Science Monitor said Chalabi, who has reason to know, has some bad news and some good news for consumers of oil.

Iraq's oil minister says that oil prices are likely to rise during the 1990s. But he says the sky-high prices of the 1970s are unlikely to be repeated again by the world oil cartel, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), which possess 77 per cent of the world's crude oil reserves.

"The 1970s were decade of the producer. The 1980s were the decade of the consumer. Will the 1990s be the decade of both? I think so," says Dr. Chalabi of oil market forces that could determine prices in the coming years.

In an interview in his Baghdad office, Chalabi predicted that with petroleum consumption increasing, supplies diminishing, and oil and natural gas still the main source of the world's energy, pressure on oil prices



Sheikh Ali

would increase during the next decade.

Crucial variables affecting price behaviour, he says, will be levels of demand for the Third World and from the newly liberalized countries of Eastern Europe. Their oil needs were once supplied by the Soviet Union. Now they offer a potentially lucrative market for Opec producers.

Currently there is more supply than demand in the world oil market. But Chalabi cautions that there is little idle producing capacity to blunt the effect of prices of the expected increases in demand.

Even though conditions in the 1990s may favour producers, Chalabi says it is unlikely that Opec will duplicate the mistake made in the 1970s. Huge price increases produced exorbitant short-term profits. But they also forced conservation measures, eventually causing the bottom to drop out of the oil market. Drastically reduced oil revenues forced many producers to abandon ambitious development and construction projects.

"We do not want to go back to the decade of the 70s or the '80s, we would rather see stability in the market," says the British trained petroleum engineer. "This is the difference between the '70s and the '90s."

"If prices go up too high it will produce a search for alternative sources," adds Chalabi, whose country sits atop the second largest proven oil reserves in the world (after Saudi Arabia). "We want price levels to be healthy for producers and consumers while ensuring that oil continues to dominate the energy scene."

Iraq's production capacity has soared back after dropping to a low in 1982 of 700,000 barrels per day during the Gulf war, when Iraqi oil fields had only one thin link to world markets through trans-Turkish pipeline.

With work now complete on new pipeline projects through Turkey and Saudi Arabia and on one of two crude oil platforms in the Gulf which were damaged during the war by Iranian aircraft and artillery, Iraq's export capacity (5 million barrels per day) is now greater than its ability to produce (4.5 million BPD) for the first time ever. With 100 billion barrels of known reserves and possibly as much more under its largely untapped western desert, Iraq's oil future looks secure.

Oil provides 95 per cent of Iraq's foreign exchange. The money is urgently needed to finance massive postwar reconstruction and industrialization plans and to service the country's \$65 billion foreign debt.

Despite the pressure to keep oil income high, Chalabi insists that Iraq would gain nothing from violating its Opec-assigned export quota of 3.14 million barrels per day.

### Gulf Bank weekly market review

## KD eases against dollar

**Kuwaiti dinar**

BASED on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate traded slightly lower against the US dollar ending the week at 290.44 fils compared with its week before last closing of 290.39 fils. The KD was lower against the pound sterling, ending the week at 491.86 fils compared with its week before last closing of 490.79 fils. The KD was higher against the DM ending the week at 172.88 fils compared with its week before last closing of 174.17 fils. The KD was also higher against the SFR ending the week at 193.92 fils compared with its week before last closing of 194.46 fils. The KD was higher against the Canadian dollar ending the week at 240.60 fils compared with its week before last closing of 242.61 fils. The KD was also higher against the Australian dollar ending the week at 216.67 fils compared with its week before last closing at 218.02 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market review.

The KD was higher against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 432.85 fils compared with its week before last closing of 433.27 fils. The KD traded slightly lower against other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market, short term interbank offer rates traded higher within a relatively narrow range over the week. One-month interbank rates traded over the week at 8.66 per cent-8.75 per cent range compared with 8.62 per cent-8.75 per cent range the week before last. Three-months interbank rates traded almost at the same level over the week at 8.75 per cent compared with 8.62 per cent-8.75 per cent range for the week before last. Rates for longer periods also traded at one level over the week at 8.75 per cent for both 6 and 12 months.

As for Treasury Bills, the CBK announced its new T-Bill, issue No. (96) of KD150 million, with effective and maturity dates of Feb 21 and May 23, 1990, respectively.

### World stock markets

Wall Street share prices fell earlier in the week on indications of financial troubles at US brokerage house and junk bond innovator Drexel Burnham Lambert, before moving higher later in the week. However, prices ended lower, underlined by a sell-off in futures and futures activity connected with futures and options expirations. The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2619 and closed higher at 2636, but recorded a loss of 12 points over the previous week's closing at 2648.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange eased earlier in the week on concern over the outlook for W. German interest rates, but moved higher later, helped by relatively calm reception on Wall Street and Tokyo for the Drexel Burnham Lambert bankruptcy filing. Selective buying by investment institutions and a programme trade by JBS Phillips & Drew, the London-based securities house, made a significant contribution. The FTSE-100 opened the week at 2286 and closed at 2325, recording a gain of 13 points over the previous week's gain of 2312.

### US dollar

The dollar traded mixed within a narrow range for most part of the week. The lack of incentives as well as any fresh data over the early part of the week kept the dollar restricted to a narrow trading range.

US trade deficit for the month of December fell 30.3 per cent to \$7.17 billion, bringing the deficit for all of 1989 to \$108.6 billion, which is the lowest yearly trade gap since 1984. The November trade deficit was revised down to \$10.3 billion from the previously reported \$10.5 billion, but was still the biggest monthly deficit in 1989. Imports in December fell 5.9 per cent over the previous month to \$38.3 billion while exports rose 2.4 per cent to \$31.1 billion. The improvement in the monthly deficit during December exceeded analysts' expectation that it would fall to a trade gap of \$9.8 billion.

### Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 144.25/35 yen and closed the week higher at \$144.10 yen compared to its week before last closing at 144.70/80 yen.

The yen strength was aided by market expectations that Japan Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will win a majority at the forthcoming general election. Some investors were seen buying yen on expectations that possible victory by the LDP would boost the yen.

Japan's customs-cleared trade surplus for the month of January fell by 89.54 per cent to \$0.34 billion from \$3.25 billion a year ago. The January narrowing of trade surplus is the ninth straight monthly narrowing of the surplus. However, the improvement in the trade surplus with the US is less impressive than the overall figure. The gap with the US fell 25.9 per cent to \$2.20 billion from \$2.97 billion a year earlier. Japan overall trade surplus was narrowed mainly due to surging imports. The cost of oil was the biggest factor behind the surging imports. Oil prices climbed 40.7 per cent from a year earlier. The week yen, which dropped nearly 15 per cent last year, also temporarily boosted the dollar value of Japan's imports.

### Precious metals

Precious metals prices ended the week higher on the back of a lower dollar following news of a lower US January production figures. Also a run-up in US gold futures on the belief that Drexel Burnham may have finished liquidating its position on Comex added the trend.

Gold bullion prices opened the week at \$418.40/418.90 and closed lower at \$417.50/418, but recorded a gain of \$2 over the previous week's closing at \$415.50/416.

Silver bullion prices opened the week at \$5.31/5.33 and closed higher at \$5.36/5.38, recording a gain of 10 cents over the previous week's closing at \$5.26/5.28.

Platinum prices opened the week at \$518/519 and closed higher at \$522.50/523.50 recording a gain of \$9.50 over the previous week's closing at \$513/514.

## Oil capital bounces back from slump

ABERDEEN, Scotland, Feb. 18, (Reuters) Scotland's oil capital is striding out of a mid-'80s slump, confident its North Sea wealth will flow well into the future.

Like Texas, the Gulf and other world oil centres, Aberdeen took a hard knock in 1986 when international crude prices crashed from around \$30 a barrel to less than \$20 in a matter of months. Offshore development was slashed, big oil companies cut their Aberdeen staff and dozens of smaller supply firms went to the wall. Thousands of jobs vanished and the bottom fell out of the housing market. Pessimists said the oil boom was over.

But now the oil price has perked up again — the benchmark Brent crude blend is trading around \$20 a barrel — bringing work and cash back to this granite city on Scotland's blustery north-eastern coast.

"Doing well? We're going like a train," said Chamber of Commerce chief executive Derek March. "Industry analysts say 1990 could see more drilling for North Sea oil than ever before. A heavy engineering schedule this year to fit new safety equipment on existing offshore platforms and pipelines will also keep oil companies and contractors busy."

"There's been a big influx again — there's a lot to be done offshore," said an oil executive just transferred from Glasgow. "Aberdeen's bubbling."

Local real estate prices have surged back to expensive pre-slump levels at a time when Britain's overall housing market has levelled out and even started to decline.

"Houses have been selling extremely well," said Malcolm Shepherd, vice-Chairman of the Aberdeen Solicitors' Property Centre, which co-ordinates sales in the area. "Demand is vastly exceeding supply and has done for the last 18 months."

An air of quiet affluence pervades union street, Aberdeen's main shopping area, which is peppered with up-market retail stores, some opened within the last year.

Aberdeen shops took more cash per square foot last Christmas than any other British town, the local Chamber of Commerce boasts. Unemployment is less than three per cent, half the national average, and there is a growing shortage of skilled labour.

Aberdeensmen put a brave face on the 1986 slump and prefer to call it a crisis of confidence — a "psychological hiccup" in Marnoch's words. They say oil at \$30 a barrel was unrealistically priced and the local economy had been starting to overheat.

"There was an oversupply of everything," Marnoch said. "Rationalisation simply came faster than expected because the oil price fell."

Major oil companies rode out the storm by tightening their belts and learning to operate more efficiently.

The city has always been a prosperous fishing port and farming centre in its own right. Stung by negative publicity from the oil slump, the public and private sectors launched a campaign promoting the region's top-quality products, from fine malt whisky to tweed cloth and paper.

But Aberdeen's fortunes are inevitably linked with those of the oil and gas industry — the city's biggest employer, claiming a fifth of the workforce.

Prospects look bright. Oil analysts see the price of crude holding in the short term and rising as the decade goes on.

The chances of another major North Sea oil find are slender and British oil production passed its peak in the mid-1980s.



Messilah Beach Hotel

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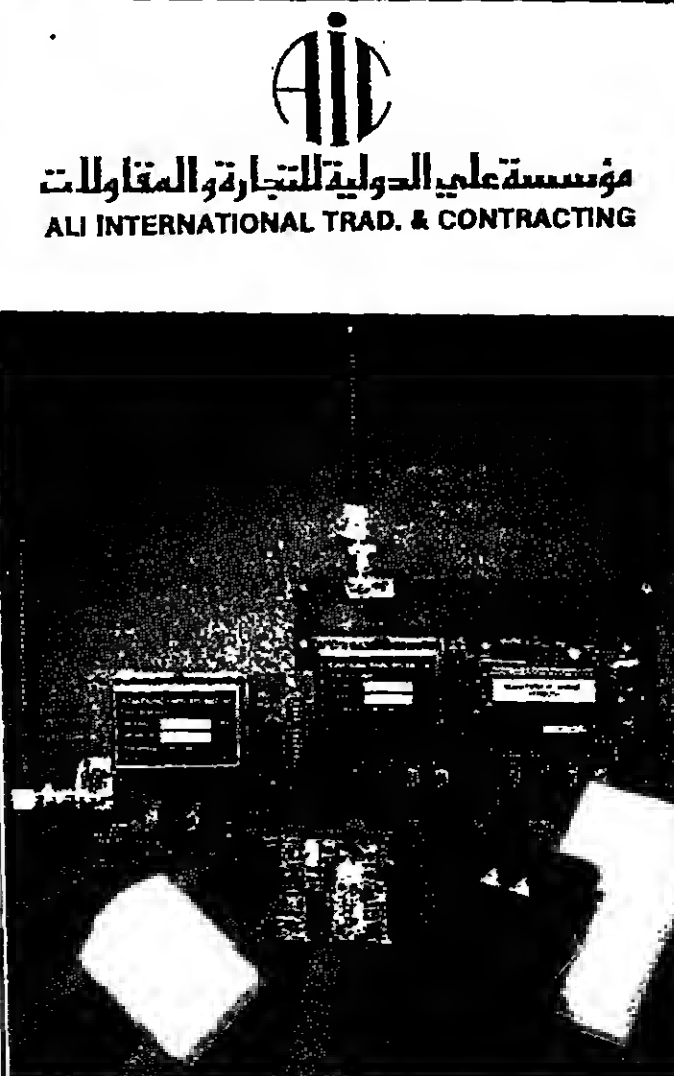
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- رسم الجداول والمربعات ....
- الاختيار بين عدد كبير من الطباعات المستخدمة في السوق.
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## Profit boost for Arab Financial Services

CHAIRMAN of Arab Financial Services (AFS), Abdullahi Saadi, has reported that profits in 1989 leapt to \$3.55 million. This represents a 184 per cent increase from the \$1.25 million profit in 1988.

Total footings of the balance sheet (representing assets) rose to \$298 million from \$223.6 million the previous year, a growth of 33.3 per cent.

The largest element in Bahrain-headquartered AFS earnings was derived from the sale of travellers cheques which reached a total of \$1,126.7 million, a 3.7 per cent gain on the \$1,086 million in 1988.

AFS is the largest issuer of travellers cheques in the Arab World and has a share of the \$2.5 billion market of roughly 45 per cent, the company says.

Other earnings came from technological and service areas, and from the AFS Premier Visa payment card offered for corporate use in the region, said Abdullahi Saadi. A new service, wholesale foreign banknote dealing also contributed income and gave evidence of future potential.

AFS sold two more versions of its travellers cheque operating system, to Barclays Bank of the UK and Westpac Banking Corporation of Australia.

Additionally, the company extended its bureau processing services for Visa card issuance to Riyadh Bank of Saudi Arabia, the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, Commercial Bank of Dubai and National Bank of Umm Al Qawain. "An on-line computer link switched on to Visa at the end of last year should attract other bureau users," said Abdullahi Saadi.

"The company has performed admirably in 1989 and after five full years of operating is now in a very strong position in the financial services industry. It bears out the confidence of the 58 Arab banks who are shareholders in AFS."

"Further technologysales will strengthen the reputation for expertise in the coming year. Though the Arab travellers cheque market shows no signs of growth and is increasingly subject to intense competition, we hope to develop sales internationally. We are confident of a continuing good story for AFS in 1990."

## KD deposit rates ease

KUWAIT, Feb 18, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates eased marginally in quiet trade today as the market prepared for an early inflow of monthly salary payments, dealers said.

Kuwaiti banks will have a three-day holiday beginning on Friday to mark both the Muslim holiday of Mi'raj and Kuwait's National Day, and dealers said salaries as a result had been pushed forward two or three days.

One bank said it had already received some payments and expected the bulk in the next two days.

Overnight, tomorrow-next and spot-next eased 1/8 point from Saturday to 8-5/8 3/8 per cent.

However, one week to one year maturities were unmoved at a uniform 8-3/4 1/2.

The Central Bank left its dinar exchange rate unchanged from Saturday at 0.28995/9005 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal inter-bank deposit rates were steady in an extremely quiet market today, dealers said.

They said because of the European weekend today the market holiday on Monday in the United States, the riyal market was extremely thin.

The spot riyal was quoted around 3.7504/07 to the dollar.

# Banks' local operations surge

CHANGES in the main items of the aggregate balance sheet of local banks (commercial and specialised) at the end of December 1989 indicate an increase in local operations of these banks — on both sides of financial resources and uses — to reach 84.8 per cent of the total activity of these banks, exceeding its level (\$79.6 per cent) in the previous month, against a decrease in the ratio of foreign activity from 20.4 per cent to 15.2 per cent. It has been noticed that about 90.5 per cent of total fund resources, which were available to local banks, came from local sources and 79 per cent of their total use of funds was directed to local activities, according to Central Bank's Monthly Monetary Review.

As a result of these developments, the total aggregate balance sheet of local banks reached to KD13163 million at the end of December 1989, a decrease of 3.5 per cent (KD473 million) below its level at the end of the previous month. This decline, on the side of assets, is

attributed to a decrease of 4 per cent (KD421 million) in local assets and 1.6 per cent (KD52 million) in foreign assets.

On the side of liabilities, it is attributed to a decrease of 3 per cent (KD 359 million) in local liabilities and 6.4 per cent (KD114 million) in foreign liabilities.

Meanwhile local banks' claims in KD on the Central Bank increased by KD22 million and the Central Bank's claims in KD on local banks decreased by KD8 million as a result of a decrease in swap operations (KD12 million) and an increase in discount operations (KD 4 million). As a result, the net balance of the Central Bank in KD with local banks declined by KD30 million below its level in the previous month to reach KD308 million at the end of December 1989.

As for public debt instruments, the Central Bank of Kuwait offered in December 1989 four issues of treasury bills (from issue No 81 to issue No 84), totalling KD595 million. Four previous issues of these bills

(from issue No 68 to issue No 71), totalling KD500 million, matured. Thus the outstanding balance of these bills increased to reach KD1816 million, an increase of 5.5 per cent (KD95 million) over the previous month.

During December 1989 no issues of treasury bonds were offered. Meanwhile, four previous issues of these bonds (a bracket of issue No 2, issue No 29, issue No 31 and issue No 33) totalling KD75 million, matured. Thus the outstanding balance of treasury bonds declined to KD370 million. As a result of these developments, the outstanding balance of public debt instruments (treasury bills and bonds) increased by KD20 million (0.9 per cent) over the previous month, totalling KD2186 million at the end of December 1989.

In December 1989 the KD exchange rate realised relative improvement (1.13 per cent) against the US dollar, as the US dollar exchange rate ranged bet-

## Assets decline

ween 292.38 fils and 296.63 fils, a monthly average of 295.09 fils.

Against other major currencies, the KD performance was mixed as, for example, it increased against both the Japanese yen (1.36 per cent) and the French franc (3.17 per cent).

In general, the KD performance against major currencies was more stable than that of the US dollar against the same currencies because the US dollar declined at rates (4.87 per cent) against the Deutsche mark and 4.25 per cent against the French franc) higher than the rates of the KD decline against these currencies.

As for interest rates in the money market, they declined slightly on interbank KD deposits at rates ranging between 1.45 per cent (from 8.40 per cent to 8.28 per cent) on one-year deposits and 0.30 per cent (from 8.44 per cent to 8.42 per cent) and (from 8.43 per cent to 8.41 per cent) on both one-month and three-month deposits respectively.

## Commercial Banks : Domestic Credit Facilities by Sector

(Million Dinars)

End of Period	Trade	Industry	Construction	Agriculture & Fisheries	Finance	Personal	Real Estate	Other	Total
1984 Dec	987.7	144.9	683.2	23.8	360.8	1040.4	742.8	125.4	4108.9
1985 Mar	984.9	132.5	680.1	21.9	352.8	1080.3	745.8	134.6	4141.0
Jun	983.8	136.8	682.7	21.5	354.8	1144.0	736.2	141.8	4178.3
Sep	987.8	126.7	681.8	22.0	364.4	1158.9	756.7	129.3	4187.5
Dec	932.8	122.2	680.0	21.8	360.9	1188.3	768.6	123.9	4196.5
1986 Mar	947.9	121.2	678.8	17.4	365.5	1182.1	766.4	129.7	4230.0
Jun	948.1	114.6	680.3	17.2	358.5	1214.8	781.6	138.1	4263.0
Sep	936.8	112.4	713.4	17.1	357.9	1253.6	795.6	123.6	4308.1
Dec	920.2	108.4	701.1	15.4	371.4	1271.5	816.5	127.8	4330.6
1987 Mar	954.4	110.9	726.7	15.4	368.3	1237.3	819.5	127.0	4359.6
Jun	969.5	116.8	773.2	18.5	380.2	1252.6	803.3	301.3	4612.5
Sep	974.1	118.7	774.1	12.7	418.7	1275.5	813.5	252.8	4639.1
Dec	962.1	140.3	784.7	11.8	485.5	1295.3	838.5	127.7	4826.0
1988 Mar	1001.1	131.3	786.6	12.8	417.2	1290.2	831.0	106.8	4865.2
Jun	948.4	142.3	755.8	13.7	409.1	1360.8	887.8	103.2	4920.4
Sep	971.2	160.1	803.9	11.6	381.8	1333.1	901.7	111.9	4974.5
Dec	967.2	136.1	813.7	12.3	366.2	1346.7	912.4	146.5	4701.2
1989 Mar	1004.7	141.8	804.7	14.8	351.7	1362.8	926.9	141.9	4748.2
Jun	1005.7	151.9	806.5	17.4	364.1	1387.7	925.8	155.9	4795.8
Sep	987.7	150.6	807.7	20.7	331.7	1401.9	918.9	150.8	4776.8
Oct	960.7	148.8	794.8	16.8	337.1	1408.6	918.8	150.4	4764.8
Nov	963.8	148.5	771.2	20.8	337.8	1430.1	898.4	157.8	4748.1
Dec	975.4	135.2	743.8	20.6	347.4	1457.3	902.8	161.8	4743.5

(1) Includes insurance companies, money and exchange dealers, investment companies and other financial institutions other than banks

## Money supply growth accelerates

### Activation drive gets a boost

THE fiscal year 1988/89 witnessed monetary policy's increased contribution to the activation of economic momentum in the country, the protection of the banking and financial system against external effects and the enhancement of its role in servicing the national economy. To realise these objectives the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) used its available monetary policy instruments and adopted some regulations in this respect, according to Central Bank's report.

During the fiscal year 1988/89 the Central Bank of Kuwait was keen to maintain appropriate levels of domestic liquidity at relatively reasonable cost compared with interest rates on major foreign currencies.

Also, the bank amended the structure of interest rates on KD as from December 11, 1988, in addition to its efforts exerted in maintaining relative stability in the KD exchange rate and the bank's follow-up of the effective implementation of the "Difficult Credit Facilities Settlement Programmes."

The local monetary developments during the fiscal year 1988/89, particularly those related to the rise in local interest rates, the relative stability in the KD exchange rate, the bank's intensive open market operations and the tangible increase in money supply growth rate (by 11.9 per cent over the previous fiscal year) reflect the Central Bank's effort to meet the requirements of local economic conditions and international monetary developments (i.e. international interest rates) affecting the local economy.

Following is a brief review of major domestic monetary developments during the fiscal year 1988/89, followed by a brief demonstration of the most important CBK procedures and operations during the year, along with the CBK financial statements for this fiscal year.

The first half of the fiscal year 1988/89 witnessed monetary developments represented in increased interest rate differentials on KD and major currencies which led to capital outflows, along with increased preference from depositors for deposits denominated in foreign currencies at commercial banks.

On the other hand, KD deposits decreased, leading to a decline in KD liquidity of commercial banks and to increased pressures on the CBK foreign assets.

In view of these developments, the Central Bank of Kuwait amended the structure of interest rates on KD as from December 11, 1988, under which the maximum limits of interest rates on lending in KD and the minimum limits of interest rates on private sector deposits in KD with banks became linked with the discount rate declared by the CBK within certain margins.

In this connection, the CBK was keen to provide the new structure with high flexibility represented in linking interest rates on both lending and deposits with a key rate (the discount rate) that can be amended, whenever needed, to keep local interest rates in line with developments in local economic conditions and changes in international interest rates.

The new structure, having included, for the first time, minimum limits of interest rates on private sector deposits in KD according to their maturities — meant to protect these rates from being very low, and to prevent the existence of wide gap between these rates and international interest rates.

Raising interest rates on KD, and thereby reducing tangibly the differentials between these rates and international interest rates, led private sector KD deposits with commercial banks to take an upward trend since December 1988 — following their downward trend since the beginning of the

year — reaching KD201 million at the end of the fiscal year 1988/89 and thereby realising a rise of 5.8 per cent over their level at the end of the previous fiscal year.

The increase in KD deposits came totally from the increase in time deposits, whose growth rate during the last seven months of the fiscal year 1988/89 rose to 26 per cent, against a decline of 8 per cent during the first five months of the same fiscal year.

Meanwhile, the growth rate of deposits denominated in foreign currencies dropped to 12.4 per cent, against 21.3 per cent during the two periods mentioned above respectively. Further, it was noticed that the average monthly maturity of KD deposits with commercial banks, after the application of the new structure of local interest rates, was higher than its level before the application, a fact indicating increased preference for deposits of longer maturities due to the increased interest rates on these maturities.

Though the new structure of interest rates on KD does not include interbank transactions in the local market, all kinds of loans to non-residents and transactions expressed in foreign currencies, averages of interest rates on interbank KD deposits recorded, in view of the new structure, during the second half of the fiscal year 1988/89 a marked increase at rates exceeding those recorded during the first half of the same fiscal year.

In general, the increase in the averages of interest rates on interbank KD deposits during the fiscal year 1988/89, compared to averages in the previous fiscal year, ranged between 2.57 percentage points (from 4.92 per cent to 7.49 per cent) on one-week deposits and 2.04 percentage points (from 5.83 per cent to 7.87 per cent) on one-year deposits.

# Tentative deal to save Eurotunnel

## Bank of England ready to rescue the project

LONDON, Feb 18, (Reuters): The Bank of England has stepped in to rescue the giant project to build a tunnel linking Britain to the rest of Europe, banking sources said today.

As Eurotunnel, the developers behind the project, locked horns in court with the consortium actually building the tunnel in a row over unpaid bills, Eurotunnel's chairman warned that the project could collapse.

But a tentative accord between the two Anglo-French consortiums was struck late on Friday at secret talks called by the bank's Governor Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the sources said.

Contractor Transmanche Link (TML) and Eurotunnel, who have jeopardised one of the world's biggest construction projects with constant haggling over money, appeared to have reached a compromise and

Eurotunnel was expected to make an announcement this week, they added.

"There was a certain amount of hanging of heads together to make them see sense and a tentative agreement was struck, but let's not jump the gun," a senior banking source said.

Estimates of the cost of completing the 50-km (30-mile) twin rail tunnel under the channel have soared from £4.8 billion (£8.2 billion) to £7.2 billion (£12.2 billion), plunging Eurotunnel into a cash crisis and unnerving its 500,000 shareholders.

Banks have frozen funding for the project, due to be completed by June 1993, until the differences between Eurotunnel and TML, a consortium of 10 British and French contractors, have been settled.

At the centre of the latest dispute is the abrasive style of Eurotunnel chief executive Alistair Morton. Part of the deal could involve appointing an executive to act as a buffer between him and TML, industry sources said.

Leigh-Pemberton made clear to the two sides at Friday's meeting how seriously the bank took the need for the privately-financed project to be completed successfully.

Since 1802, when one of Napoleon's engineers drafted plans for a link across the channel, there have been 30 attempts to bridge it or tunnel under it. British fears that a defensive moat would be breached — the country has not been invaded since the Norman Conquest in 1066 — killed an Anglo-French rail tunnel project in 1883.

And although Britain felt less threatened in 1975 tight finances killed another proposal that year.

Shareholders were shaken on Friday when Eurotunnel chairman Andre Benard said the latest attempt to link Britain and France might also fail because of the row over money with TML which came to a head in a French court in Friday.

The court ordered Eurotunnel to pay TML £62 million (£105 million) but Eurotunnel said it would appeal.

TML has blamed Eurotunnel management for delays and the huge cost overruns.

Shares in Eurotunnel took a knock because of last week's rows, closing in London on Friday at 553 pence (\$9.4), down from 625 pence (\$10.6) the previous week. The shares hit £12 (\$20.4) at one point last year.

## Looking at longer-term options

### UPI to maintain full photo service

WASHINGTON, Feb 18, (UPI): United Press International, facing termination of its picture partnership with the Reuters news agency, said Saturday it will maintain an international photo service.

A company spokesman also said that UPI is considering, as one of its options, filing legal action against Reuters, which announced Friday it was severing a 10-year agreement that took effect in 1985.

Reuters also said it had filed suit against UPI to recover unspecified costs. Reuters also briefly cut off UPI's feed of new pictures from outside the United States Friday night.

"UPI already has begun to mobilize its resources to cover its international photo requirements while it is looking at longer-term options," UPI spokesman Milt Capps said.

"UPI is identifying key staff members and stringer photographers with whom we have worked at home and abroad for rapid deployment to key editing and transmission centres," Capps said.

"Given the erratic behaviour of Reuters, we have very quickly moved to identify options to continue providing overseas photo service to clients," he said. "Re-establishing our own network of staff photographers or photo stringers overseas is one option. Looking for an alternative photo service is another."

Asked whether the French news agency Agence France-Press might be considered a possible future partner with the UPI photo service, Capps said, "AFP would certainly qualify to be an alternative resource."

Capps said UPI expected to announce more detailed plans in the coming week.

Under an agreement signed by UPI and Reuters in 1984, Reuters has supplied UPI with pictures from outside the United States, while UPI provided Reuters with pictures from its US bureaus. The arrangement took effect in January 1985.

Andrew Nibley, editor for Reuters America,

announced Friday the British news agency had decided to terminate the agreement.

"For some time, Reuters has been forced to incur considerable additional costs to supplement the UPI service," Nibley said in a statement. "We had no choice but to take this decision."

Nibley said Reuters filed a lawsuit seeking to recover those costs.

Capps said Saturday, "we were surprised by this abrupt move by Reuters. We are told that Reuters has filed suit against UPI in federal court in New York City. We have not seen the suit, so I cannot comment on what's in it."

Capps said, "UPI, as one of the options, is looking at the possibility of legal action against Reuters. He said UPI wants a 'very orderly resolution of the agreement'."

At one point Saturday, the UPI spokesman said that, under the 10-year contract, disputes between the two news agencies are to be worked out through arbitration. He said the question of arbitration may now be moot because of the Reuters action.

Each party has a right to give "a notice of intent to cancel" the picture exchange deal, Capps said.

Later, however, Capps said his comments on the terms of the contract had been "inappropriate" and "not based on first-hand knowledge" of the contract.

"Only UPI legal counsel is familiar with our contract with Reuters, and only they can comment on the interpretation of that contract... UPI legal counsel is the only source for comment on contract details," he said.

Capps said there had been a UPI proposal to end the agreement with Reuters prior to Friday's announcement by Reuters.

He said, "UPI earlier this year offered Reuters an orderly divorce. We only wish Reuters had stuck to the prenuptial agreement. UPI certainly entered the marriage with every intent to make it work, while Reuters seems mainly intent on disruption."

## 17 creditor nations to reschedule debts

### West voices support for Poland

PARIS, Feb 18, (AP): Seventeen creditor nations agreed yesterday to reschedule nearly \$10 billion in Polish debts, suspending all payments until March 1991 and spreading the rest over 14 years, officials said.

The agreement is the most generous reached so far between debtors and the informal organisation of creditor nations known as the Paris Club, said the group's chair, Jean Claude Trichet.

The pact, negotiated over two days, indicates Western support for Poland's new non-communist government and its radical economic reform plans, the Polish news agency PAP quoted Trichet as saying.

Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki asked the creditor governments on Feb 9 to allow an immediate suspension of Poland's principal and interest payments for 1989 and 1990 and to freeze its \$40-billion debt to the West. Mazowiecki said the staggering debt was the greatest threat to Poland's effort to emerge from the chaos of its centrally-controlled socialist economy with a market-driven system.

The agreement allows Poland to reschedule \$3.4 billion of its \$27 billion debt to Paris Club nations, including \$3.4 billion in arrears.

The covered debt, which had been due to be paid by March 1, 1991, will be spread over 14 years, with an eight-

year grace period on principal, PAP said.

After March 1991, Poland will pay only interest on the \$9.4 billion for the next seven years. The principal is then to be repaid during the next six years.

The agreement allows Poland to reduce by about one-fourth the payments it has been making to the West, deputy government spokesman Henry Wozniakowski said in Warsaw. Poland has been paying about \$1.5 billion a year against a debt of about \$3.7 billion a year.

Trichet, who chaired the meeting, called the agreement "absolutely exceptional."

Deputy Finance Vice-Minister Janusz Sawicki, head of the Polish delegation, said in Paris that the agreement was the best Poland could reach at present, PAP reported.

The question of reducing the overall Polish debt remains open, and further meetings will be held, the officials said. The Paris Club agreed with Mazowiecki's suggestion that a team be set up to consult with Polish experts on the possibility of an agreement reducing the Polish debt in co-operation with the International Monetary Fund, PAP said.

The debt rescheduling was contingent on formal IMF approval two weeks ago of Poland's economic restructuring plan.

## Japan's financial backing needed to lure its business into Soviet development plans in a big way

TOKYO, Feb 18, (Reuters): Japan-Soviet diplomatic relations seem set to thaw, but Japanese businessmen remain cool about increasing trade and investment with their huge neighbour, according to diplomats and trade experts.

"People may say that it's diplomatic problems that have kept economic ties from developing, but that's not the case," said a Soviet expert at the Federation of Economic Organisations (Keldaren), Japan's biggest business group.

On the diplomatic front, Japan-Soviet relations could be approaching a critical turning point, political experts said.

Relations have been soured for more than four decades by a dispute over the ownership of the Kurile Group of islands seized by advancing Soviet troops in the

improved Soviet-Japan relations," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said last Friday.

Talks on the islands, off Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, are expected to be held next month when Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visits Tokyo.

Shevardnadze is expected to pave the way for a Tokyo visit by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev early next year, a trip which could see foundations laid for a solution to the dispute.

"The Japanese administration... will face a major challenge in receiving Gorbachev to Tokyo and improving relations with the Soviet Union on territorial matters," said Sophia University professor Kimiko Kurokichi.

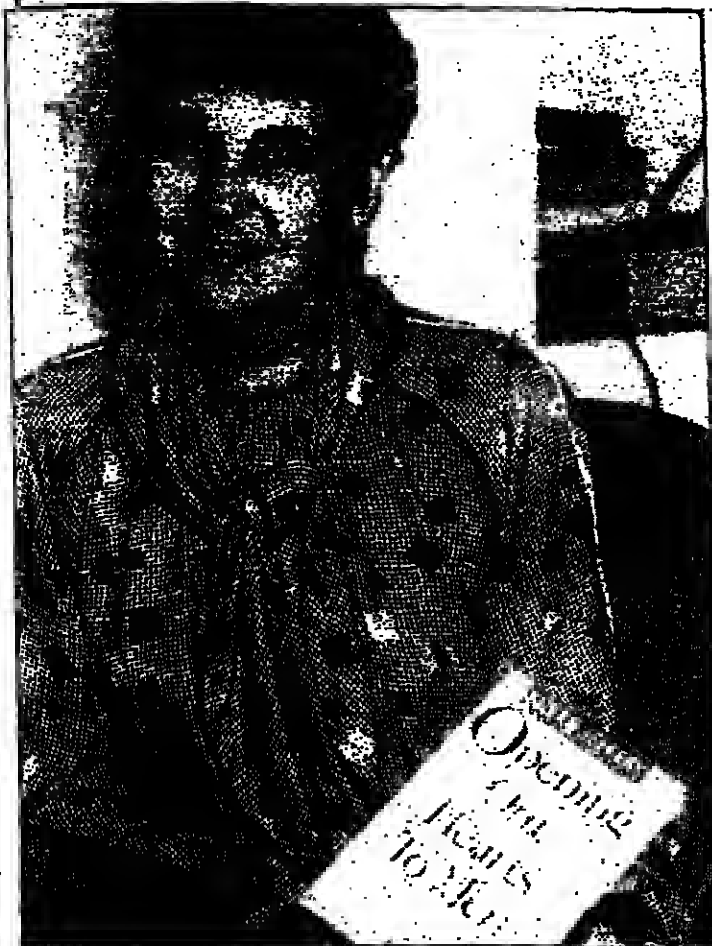
Former Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, who met Gorbachev in Moscow last month, said the Soviet leader's visit could be "the start of a solution" to the territorial dispute.

However, Gorbachev's visit might not see the conclusion of a peace treaty, according to some experts.

"I don't think a peace treaty will be concluded when Gorbachev comes because they won't immediately agree to a reversion of the islands," said Kenichi Ito, an Aoyama Gakuin University political science professor.

"But to make Gorbachev's visit a success they can't come empty handed, so they will probably agree in principle to the possibility of the reversion... sometime in the future."





Susan Jeffers with a copy of "Opening Our Hearts to Men."



Sua urges woman to let man know how much they are needed...

## 'New woman' turns off men

# 'Open your hearts' to the opposite sex, says psychologist

MANY modern women fail to find love because they "close their hearts" to men, according to top psychologist Susan Jeffers.

They sabotage their chance of happiness because they are often afraid of losing their hard-won identity and discourage the man who could be Mr Right. Having worked so hard to stand on their own feet, they "close off the part of themselves that has normal needs" and relationships come to an end needlessly because of this "closing up".

Dr Jeffers believes that, since the feminist movement of the sixties, women are discovering they don't need men, while men are realising they do need women. But since men rarely share their feelings, they can't find solace in their friends as women can.

She urges women to let men know how much they are needed — and not just for financial reasons.

A slim and attractive 51-year-old American, Dr Jeffers said: "I really believe there is no such thing as a bad relationship. If we see everything we do in life as a way to learn and to grow, then even the most negative experience in our life becomes positive."

"People ask me what is wrong with relationships today. It's the same question that was asked before the women's lib movement began."

"When women's lib came along, we got to use parts of ourselves we didn't use before but in the process we closed our hearts to men."

In her book *Opening Our Hearts to Men* (Piatkus, £10.95), Dr Jeffers reveals how, following the break-up of her first marriage and after a series of unsuccessful relationships, she discovered how to open her heart to men.

She said: "Between my marriages I really had a closed heart. I didn't realise it

at the time but I used to sit around with my friends talking about how awful men were. I didn't realise how angry I was or how numb I was to men's feelings. So I used to put men down a lot."

But when she found out that she had breast cancer six years ago, Dr Jeffers took a good look at herself. She explained: "Realising what an angry person I was, I decided I would look at that because I think more and more we're finding that our emotional state has a lot to do with our health. And anger is a very stressful emotion."

"So that's when I started to take a really good look at my anger and discovered I was a woman with a very closed heart who was scared of not being good enough, of not being able to handle my own life and a lot of pain about how I felt about myself."

Dr Jeffers explains in her book: "Recognition brings about transforma-

tion. If you don't see a problem, you can't change it. My honest look at myself was the first step on the road to finding love. It was painful at the beginning, because until that time I had never seen myself as an angry person who really hurt inside."

She said: "I believe you can't go around changing men. You have to work with yourself. So I think it is totally inappropriate for a woman to say, 'Why is he hurting me?' The real question is, 'How do I build the confidence to get out of a relationship that's hurting me and how do I draw a healthier person into my life?'"

"Just saying positive things changes the energy around you — even if you don't mean it. If you're constantly saying 'I'm no good', 'I'm terrible', 'He's terrible', you're weakening your whole energy."

In her book, Dr Jeffers describes the

case of a woman whose husband left her 10 years ago.

"He's as happy as a lark in his new life and she is still stewing in her own juices, not realising that the only person she is hurting is herself..."

"Her ex-husband gave her the big house in which she lives and, because of the divorce settlement, she doesn't have to work a day in her life."

"There is so much that she could be doing... so much that she could be offering to another man... so much joy she could be giving and getting."

But her hate keeps from seeing the abundance in her life.

Dr Jeffers, well-known in America for her workshops on relationships between men and women, believes today's men are becoming less interested in marrying dependent women and taking care of them for the rest of their lives.

## Ethnic Arab music set to conquer world

By Philip Shehadi

ORAN, Algeria. (Reuters) Algerian star Houari Benchenet, hard-pressed during a short break between gigs in Paris and Algiers, looked at his watch and asked: "Have you finished the interview?"

Benchenet has had little time to spare since an international audience for ethnic-based "world music" discovered Algeria's vibrant blend of African rhythm and Western pop.

Born in the brothels and cabarets of this Mediterranean port in the 1920s when women who lost their men in the First World War sang the blues to Arab flutes and drums, rai is gaining fans abroad even as its popularity at home has peaked.

"We're out to conquer world markets with a mixture of the Arab and the Western," said Amar Belachene, manager of another rai star, 23-year-old Cheb Mami.

Benchenet is preparing his first recording for a French label. Cheb Mami, after sold-out dates in clubs in New York and Montreal last year, is set to record soon in Los Angeles.

Cheb Khaled, called the "king of rai" by Algerians, released a landmark recording last year with US-trained Algerian jazzman Saly Boutella that incorporated synthesizers.

A 1987 rai festival in Bobigny, on the outskirts of Paris, marked the sound's international debut and some music writers have since called it the "reggae of the 90s."

Rai swept Algeria in the 1980s, bursting out of Oran's working-class neighbourhoods to captivate North African youth with its raw, sensual energy and provocative lyrics.

Its pulsating beat still blares from street corners, car radios and nightclubs in this most free-wheeling and open of Algerian cities, voicing the frustrations of millions of downtrodden young people.

At its birth in the 1920s, when Oran was a vibrant French colonial port, "rai" meant misfortune in the local Arab dialect and the young men, or "chebs" who revived the genre in the 1950s vented their own.

"Rai expresses all the frustrations of Algerian youth, everything it lacks — love, freedom and a job," said Zubeidah Hagant, a professor at the University of Oran.

Lyrics were by Arab standards so sexually explicit that rai was banned from Algerian airwaves until 1986, a year after the music won official backing at a festival in Oran attended by more than 200,000 people.

Once regarded as dangerous subversives for singing about unemployment and corruption, rai singers are now seen as hot export commodities earning badly needed hard currency.

But the lyrics have been toned down as musicians sought respectability at home and an audience overseas.

"The forbidden fruit side is gone. The subversive side has softened, there is even a petit bourgeois spirit," said Hadj Saim, a professor at Oran's Music Conservatory.

Benchenet started singing rai in the mid-1970s, accompanied by violin, accordion and drums. "We would gather in the neighbourhood to sing and enjoy ourselves," he said. "We went to weddings to listen to the chebs and chebates (young women)."

Today's rai bands use electric bass, guitar and argao and increasingly seek out modern studios abroad to upgrade the tinny sound of local cassettes with rich Western arrangements.

Elements of jazz, reggae and the latest Western dance music are woven into rhythms.

"The most important thing is that someone who does not understand the Arabic words can still like the music," Benchenet said.

As rai gains momentum abroad, however, domestic cassette sales are down and Mami, Khaled and other stars have moved to France, home to nearly a million Algerian immigrants.

Purists say the musicians can blame only themselves for their fading popularity at home, saying the new rai is too commercial.

The rise of Islamic fundamentalism, which regards any music as anathema, is another factor, while economic problems have left Algerians with little to spend on tapes or music clubs.

An official involved in promoting rai in Oran said a large number of the youths who thronged the first festival in 1985 may have joined the country's burgeoning fundamentalists movement — and traded rai for cassettes of Quranic readings.

One singer has become a muezzin, calling the faithful to prayers.

## FAMILY DOCTOR

By Dr ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

### EXERCISE, REST BOTH VALID WAYS OF EASING ARTHRITIS

QUESTION: My problems with arthritis are considerable, and I read everything I can get my hands on about this terrible problem. But the more I read, the more confused I become since some articles stress rest while other recommended exercise to help. Which is the correct method of dealing with this disease?

ANSWER: Arthritis is a complicated and chronic disease that goes through many stages, at times becoming more painful than at others. In reality, both exercise and rest are necessary at different times, depending on the state of your arthritis. When pain is relatively rare, exercise will help you to maintain the function of the joint affected by arthritis.

There are many kinds of exercise. Active exercise involves strengthening of the various muscles and structures that support the joint and can reduce symptoms. Passive exercise, where the joint is just moved to its fullest range of motion is useful to maintain mobility and flexibility. Probably the best exercise for arthritis is swimming, for it uses all of our muscle groups, yet places little stress on the joints.

But when pain strikes, and motion is difficult, it is necessary to reduce the amount of stress placed on the joint. Excessive activity should be curtailed, and it may be necessary to take medication that can reduce both inflammation and pain.

Keep reading everything you can about your disease, for the more you know the easier it will be to deal with your condition. Don't be afraid to ask the doctor for more information or for specific instructions concerning the amount and types of exercises you can engage in as your condition changes.

QUESTION: My 2-year-old gave me a scare the other day. I found her putting a strawberry-scented air freshener stick in her mouth! I never thought to keep things like that out of her reach. What can I do about this problem?

ANSWER: Many supposedly "harmless" items can be lethal for a child who can't yet distinguish between food and inedible objects. Curious toddlers between the ages of 1 and 3 are especially attracted to objects which appealing scents, colours or shapes. And since, unfortunately, there are no federal regulations governing packaging, manufacturers continue to make products that can be confusing for this age group.

One common pitfall is pills that look like candy: M&M's, Good 'n' Plenty, and Chicklets all look like common vitamin supplements or medications that can prove toxic to youngsters. Toy medicine kits with edible sugar "medicine" only confuse a child further. Never cajole a child into taking medication by saying it "tastes like candy," and keep all medicines, including over-the-counter drugs, locked away. Avoid buying overly candy-like shaped batteries or matchsticks; they may tempt a child to eat the real thing later on.

Also, keep out of reach inedible or toxic household items that look or smell like food, plastic, food-shaped toys, or sweet-scented shampoo, mouthwash or household cleaners. Even worse, manufacturers are now packaging many non-food items in familiar-looking food containers that even fool adults.

Dr Allan Bruckheim welcomes questions from readers. Although he cannot respond to each one individually, he will answer those of general interest in his column. Write to Dr Bruckheim in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 119, Orlando, Fla. 32802-0119.

## Bob Hoskins: unlikely heartthrob

HE IS not your classic Hollywood leading man. He's 5 feet 8 inches tall and inclined toward roundness. He doesn't have much hair and sports a crooked nose on the kind of face you might run into downing a few pints in a pub in one of London's rougher neighbourhoods.

But even though Bob Hoskins may not be a contender for the kind of roles that go to the likes of Kevin Costner and Mel Gibson, the former circus fire-eater, steeplejack and seaman, who himself confesses, "I'm a short, fat, middle-aged man with a broken nose and a bald head" is today an international star and has found himself on every Hollywood producer's "most wanted" list.

Hoskins had already taken over in Britain from Michael Caine as that country's most popular screen actor. He scored big as the ferocious gangster boss in *The Long Good Friday* (1980). Then there was his role as the romantic street-smart salesman in writer Dennis Potter's brilliant 1982 TV mini-series *Penelope from Heaven*. Hoskins followed that with *Mona Lisa* in 1986, about a cockney chauffeur obsessed with a black prostitute (Cathy Tyson), which earned him an Oscar nomination for best actor.

There were other movies along the way such as *The Cotton Club* (1984) with Richard Gere. But what turned Hoskins' name into a household word and made his face instantly recognizable in America and around the world was his role as the bumbling detective Eddie Valiant who was sent to investigate corruption in Tootsies in the enormously successful 1988 Steven Spielberg-produced *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*. Hoskins more than held his own while sharing the screen with the sexy cartoon femme fatale Jessica, in the ground-breaking mix of animation and live action that owed as much to movie technology as to human performance.

"I finally got a film role that made me a hero to my son," says the proud father of Rosa, 7 and Jack, 5. "And then he wouldn't speak to me because he figured what kind of father had friends such as Bugs Bunny and Yosemite Sam and didn't bring them home to meet him. 'You bring all your boring old friends home', he told me."

But if his son took a while to come around, the rest of the world did not. Hoskins is not. Cher went

after him personally to star opposite her in the just-completed *Mermaids*.

"I just love being a movie star," says Hoskins, chuckling with glee. "I go around in a constant state of surprise that it has happened to me. It's great. It's terrific."

Even in his newest fantasy/comedy *Heart Condition*, in which he plays a bigoted, sloppy cop named Jack Mooney, he gets the girl in a they-lived-happily-ever-after ending.

So what's going on here? How is it that an English 47-year-old high school dropout who doesn't even remotely fit the classic matinee idol mould has become Hollywood's heartthrob?

His *Heart Condition* character is far from sympathetic. In the enlightened '90s, Hoskins' Mooney is an anachronism: a loudmouthed, racist who drinks, cars and bustles himself into a massive heart attack. Requiring a transplant, Mooney gets the heart of his hated nemesis, a slick black lawyer named Napoleon Stone played by Denzel Washington. Stone's ghost returns to encourage Mooney to uncover the circumstances of Stone's death and rescue the damsel in distress (Chloe Webb) from the clutches of a nasty hoodlum.

"It's about two half men who eventually become one helluva guy," says the down-to-earth Hoskins, who is as remarkably candid in person as easy to talk to as his screen characters suggest.

Hoskins has shown up to talk to reporters at Santa Monica's beachside Loews Hotel wearing a multicoloured baseball jacket, jeans, slip-on shoes and heavy brown-rimmed glasses. "I'm blind as a bat without 'em," he says in that unmistakable East End of London accent. He speaks at machine-gun pace, dropping in his like peanut shells and peppering his conversation with cockney slang that requires translation for some of the American writers trying to keep up with him.

Did he choose the role because it gave him the chance to play his first Hollywood romantic lead?

"Did you see the same picture?" he fires back. "Romantic is hardly the word. Mooney is a really slob. I'm fond of him because he's a person and I like people. He's just an ordinary guy."

"I'm a very ordinary man and I play very ordinary guys," continues Hoskins. "But what you see in films is the private loneliness of an ordinary man and the private moments of anybody's life are not ordinary."

"I try to make the characters as three dimensional as possible, hopefully four dimensional. I have to present someone you recognise to take you through the adventure, through your eyes, as an Everyman. Go downtown to one of the local bars and you'll find plenty of Mooneys."

In portraying this Everyman, Hoskins didn't go for the exhaustive research that has become a cliché with Hollywood's younger actors. He didn't move in with a copy and his family.

"Nah!" he says decisively. "You try to do research on a cop and all these cops are gonna show you how to be a cop leaping in and out of cars. No cop would be doing that if they didn't have an actor sitting in their car with them. The best thing to do is go and have a drink with the guy when he doesn't know who you are. You'll learn a lot more."

So successfully does Hoskins portray whomever he's playing that audiences sometimes have difficulty separating the actor from the part. People routinely come up to him, not for autographs, but convinced they know him. When he played a mobster in *The Long Good Friday*, two of England's most notorious gangsters, the Kray twins, wrote Hoskins a letter inviting him to visit them.

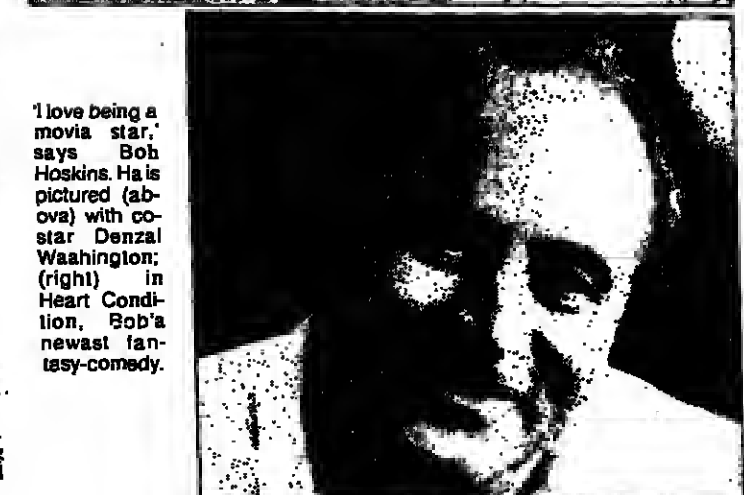
Last year an English newspaper reported that like his screen character Mooney, Hoskins' doctors had told him he was headed for a heart attack if he didn't slow down.

So he rested for a year and then everything landed on his doorstep at once. But Hoskins says life is easier for him now than it was when he was a struggling stage actor with young children from his first family.

Having his family around when he works is almost as important as the roles he plays. "Listen, I can be swayed by filthy lucre as much as the next fella.... If there's a good caterer and a nice location and I can bring the wife and family out, why not?"

He has just finished shooting *Mermaids*. Making love to Cher on screen every day was a dirty job, but somebody had to do it, he jokes.

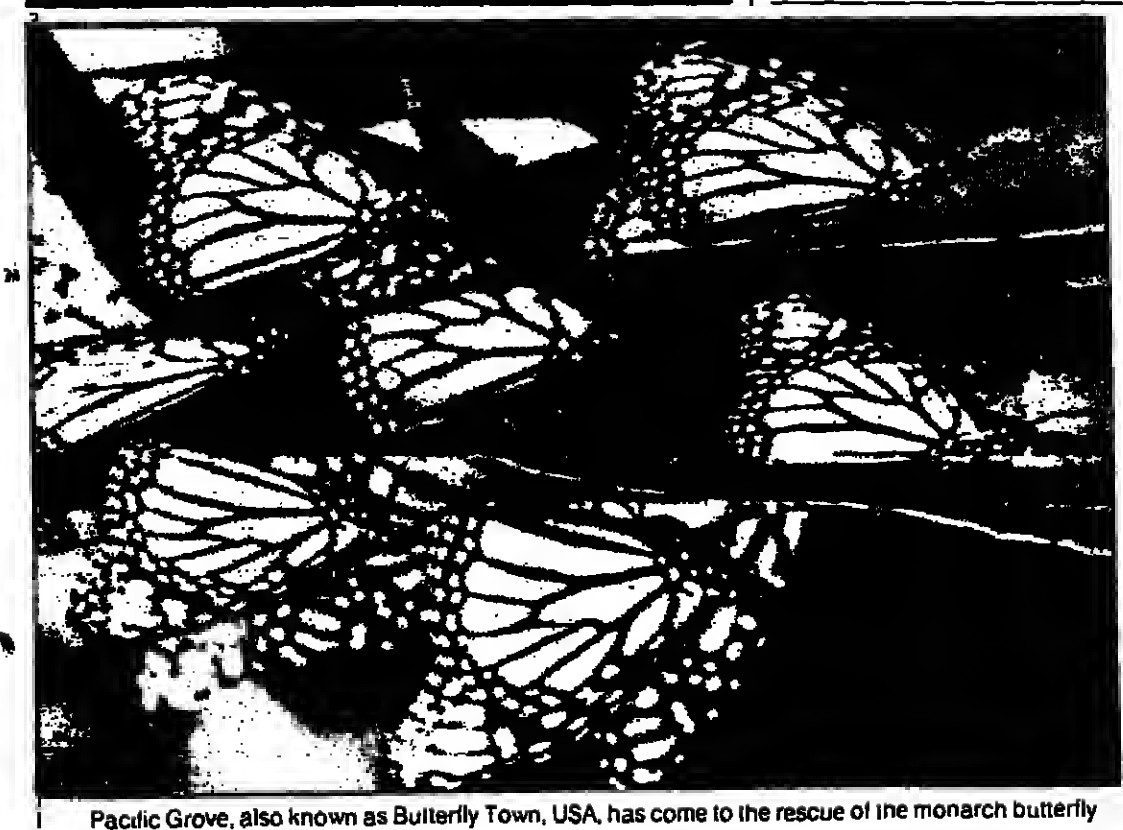
"She's a crackler. Old Cher," says Hoskins. "She's quite funny actually. She's this amazing beauty, but when I work I take my glasses off and I'm blind as a bat."



I love being a movie star, says Bob Hoskins. He is pictured (above) with co-star Denzel Washington; (right) in *Heart Condition*. Bob's newest fantasy-comedy.

## Conservation

# Butterfly Town residents rescue the 'monarch'



Pacific Grove, also known as Butterfly Town, USA, has come to the rescue of the monarch butterfly

PACIFIC GROVE, California. (Reuters) Every October, school children in butterfly costumes parade through the streets of Pacific Grove to welcome the return of the monarch butterflies.

The colourful butterflies have given this attractive town on the Central California coast the sobriquet "Butterfly Town USA" and also caused one of the biggest ever rows in the history of the 101-year-old community.

After seven months of debate that pitted resident against resident, the Pacific Grove city council voted 4-2 last week against plans to put a housing development on one of the monarch's few remaining wintering sites.

The monarchs — the only species of butterfly to migrate between seasons — come to the Pacific Grove every October from colder parts of the western United States and Canada.

After spending the winter here, they flutter off each March to feed and reproduce up to 6,400 km (4,000 miles) away.

While wintering, they hang in clusters from pine needles, sheltered from winds and predatory birds by canopies of higher branches and other trees.

Monarchs are generally dormant for the winter but sometimes emerge in clouds of spectacular colour for a few hours on warm, windless days.

The Butterfly Grove Inn, a motel next to the site considered for development, has reported as many as 150 people a day calling in to see the monarchs, noted for their reddish brown wings, marked by black veins and a black border with two rows of spots.

The motel was owned for years by Edna Diveley, who wanted to develop the adjacent land.

Ironically, it was Diveley, who operated the motel from the 1940s to the 1960s, who promoted the butterfly habitat as a tourist attraction. Now retired, widowed and living in nearby Pebble Beach, Diveley pushed for the right to put housing on her land.

"I'm in a position now where I'd like to

make some use of my assets," said 81-year-old Diveley.

In January the council voted 4-3 in favour of her development proposal, a move that split the quiet town of 17,000 which is also known for exceptional beauty and charm.

In the ensuing row, scientists converged on city hall, appealing to officials to reserve the town's namesake.

Environmentalists crowded council meetings and angry residents distributed petitions outside the town's grocery store and the post office. They handed out the home telephone numbers of council members so residents could contact them directly.

After the council voted in January to allow Diveley to build houses on the 1.2 hectares (three acres) of woods she has owned for four decades, local officials received Pacific Grove's first known hate mail.

"I really don't think that development would effect the butterfly habitat," said Mayor Morris Fisher, a local banker who

originally voted for the development.

But, in the face of the fierce outcry, he changed his vote which was enough to change the decision. (Another councillor citing trouble with his car, missed the second vote).

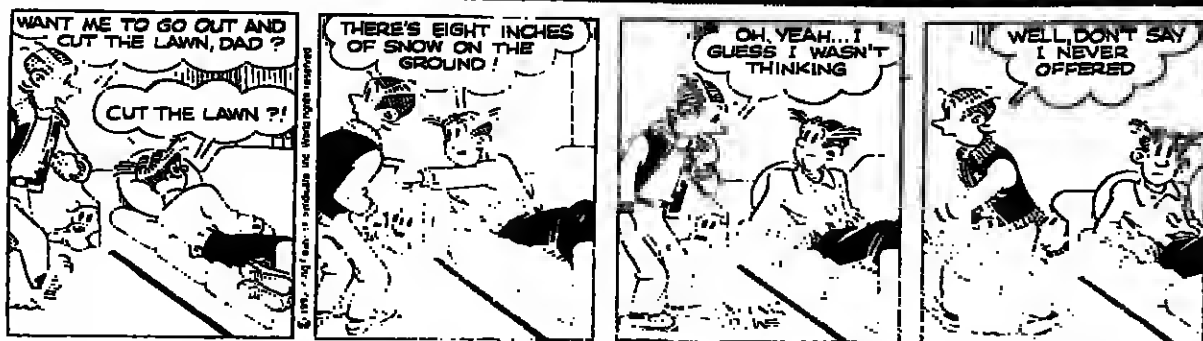
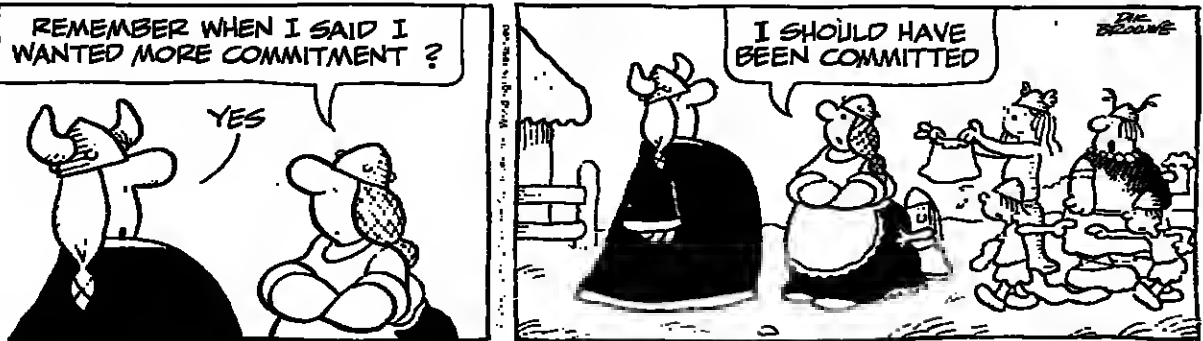
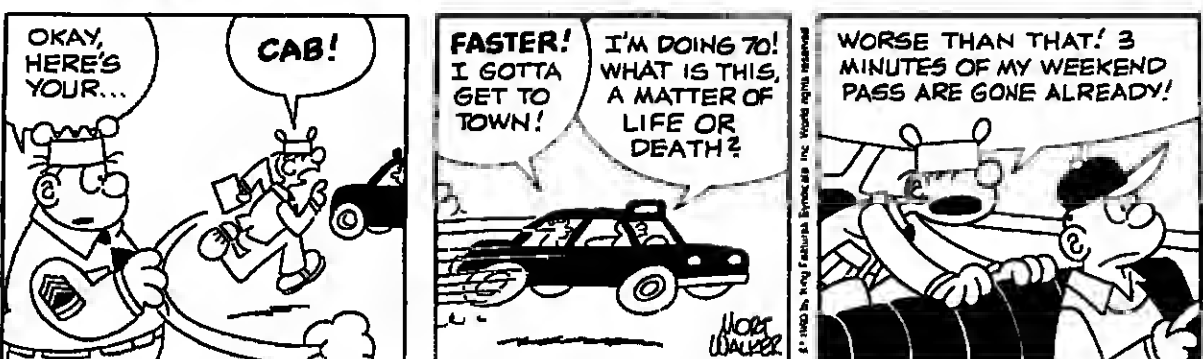
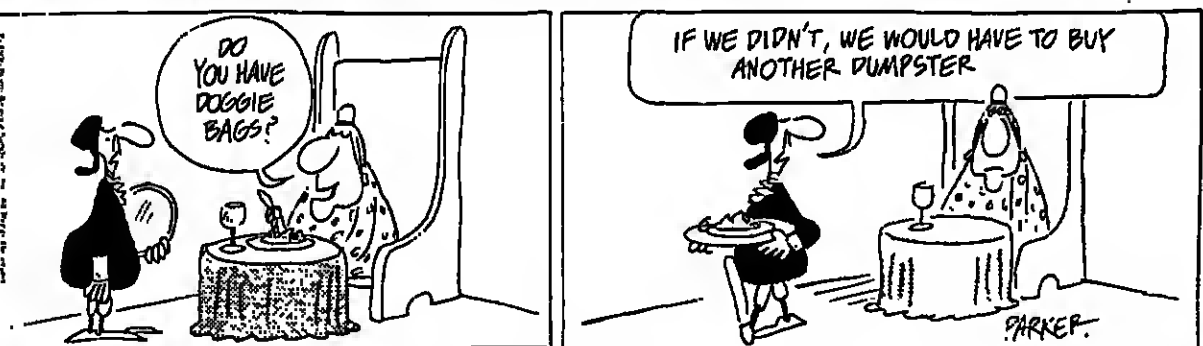
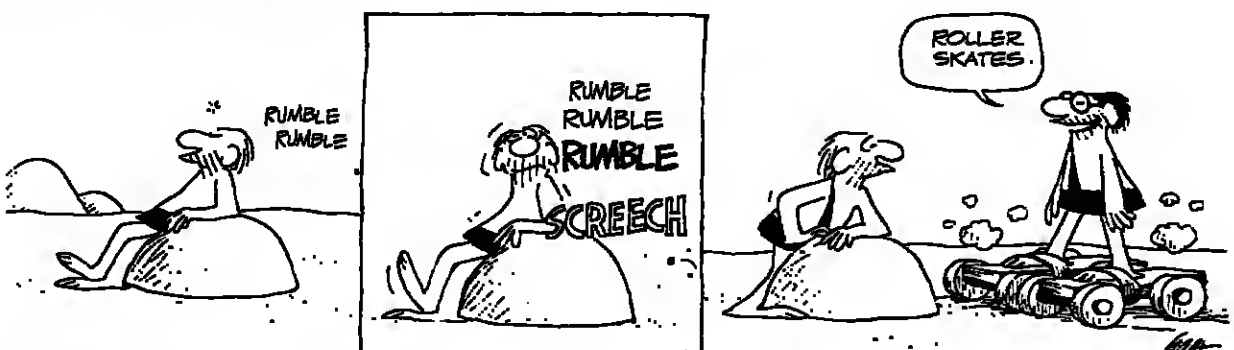
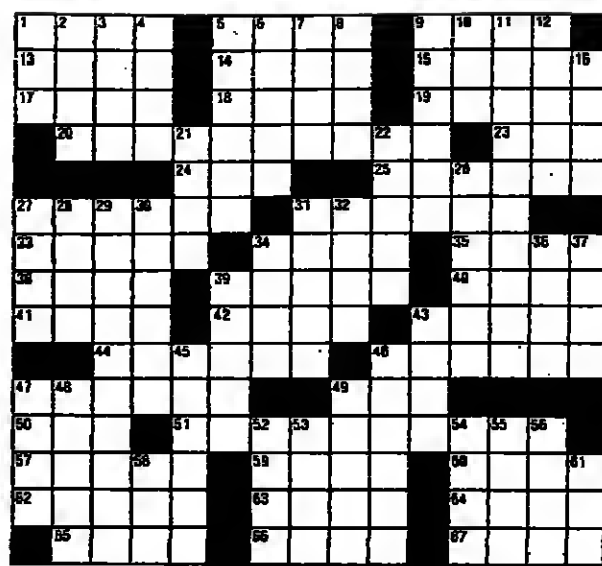
Ro Vaccaro, president of the recently organised "friends of the monarchs," said there was no doubt about the danger to the butterflies.

"Any development will wreck that site," she said. "We're very clear on that. The scientists were very clear on that. The environmental report was very clear on that."

Local officials had previously allowed construction of an apartment complex on another monarch wintering site, mistakenly believing the butterflies would find another grove of trees, said Vern Yaden, curator of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History.

They did not, and the butterfly population has been declining in Pacific Grove ever since.



**BLONDIE** — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUM** — By Bill Hoest**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Fortan & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Cultura medium
  - Actress
  - Rowlands
  - El Prado
  - Stable staple
  - Branch angle
  - Fred's sister
  - Actress Sten
  - Grabber's cry
  - Latin beat
  - Fairy-tale intruder
  - Singer's syllables
  - "A Chorus Line" song
  - Oxygen-breathing organism
  - Hira
  - Opening
  - Standards
  - Three
  - Scottish resort
  - Music halls
  - Heavenly fare
  - Mickey and Minnie
  - Beginning
  - Galea and bauxite
  - Yankee #8
  - Bagger, for example
  - Beam
  - In
  - Former acom
  - The Grande
  - for one
  - "Teach" to his classmates?
  - Island off Venezuela
  - Moby Dick's hunter
  - One-sided win
- DOWN**
- Here, in a fable
  - Ready
  - Ship's position
  - Onion's kin
  - Garanti's lady
  - Haberdashery purchase
  - Traveler's resis
  - Dr.'s org.
  - Bunch
  - Flora's river
  - Tangibia
  - Saucy lass
  - Outcast
  - Spanish lad
  - A Waugh
  - Shot the breeze
  - Seraglio
  - Goldfinch
  - 1942 Preskness winner
  - Comfort
  - Puli and Komondor
  - Roo's mother
  - Tenant of a type
  - Adam's
  - grandson
  - Stem joint
  - Gardner's bailiwick
  - Spanish king: 1870-73
  - Lloyd or Paul of baseball
  - Traveler's resis
  - Shave
  - Farm unit
  - Approximate
  - Paragon
  - Xmas gift
  - Shove off
  - Chewad the rag
  - Soviet sea
  - Innsbruck site
  - Giraffe's cousin
  - River to the Rhine
  - Gossip
  - Saudi
  - Hermist or Ophelia
  - Competition
  - Drones
  - Asian holiday

**GOEN BRIDGE**

BY CHARLES GOEN AND OMAR SHARIF  
COVER AN HONOR?

Both vulnerable. South deals:

**NORTH**  
♠ 9 5 4 2  
♥ J 6 3  
♦ K Q 7  
♣ A 8 3

**WEST**  
♠ A 8 7 3  
♥ Void  
♦ J 9 8 5 2  
♣ Q 9 5 4

**EAST**  
♠ J 10 6  
♥ Q 10 8  
♦ 10 4 3  
♣ J 10 7 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K Q  
♥ A K 9 7 5 4 2  
♦ A 6  
♣ K 6

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 Pass 1 Pass  
4 Pass 5 Pass  
6 Pass 6 Pass  
Opening lead: Ace of ♠

There is more than one way to play a suit combination. Suppose you are declaring six hearts. How would you tackle the trump suit?

South's hand was a borderline demand bid and the opening bid of one heart followed by a jump to game depicted just about the full worth of the hand. North liked his support and prime cards enough to

cue-bid the ace of clubs and South needed no more urging to contract for a small slam.

West led the ace of spades and continued with a low spade, declarer winning. With 10 trumps in the combined hands, most declarers would lay down a high trump and concede one down when hearts broke 3-0. But there is a better way to handle the suit.

At trick three, declarer should cross to dummy and then lead the jack of hearts. Of course, if East follows with a low heart, declarer intends rising with a top honor and playing for a normal split. However, every now and then a careless East might choose to "cover and honor with an honor." When the bad break shows up it's a simple matter for declarer to return to the table in the other minor and this time take the marked finesse for the ten of hearts to land the slam.

Just in case you don't believe that any player worth his salt would cover the jack of hearts let us disillusion you. This hand is based on one played in a national championship some years ago and Dorothy Hayden Truscott pulled off just such a swindle!



"He can't hold on forever."

**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
March 21 - April 19  
Something you have been learning will now become a lot easier. You should not retire entirely into yourself. However, nor should you make your social life be all and end all. Be responsive.



**Cancer**  
June 21 - July 20  
Do try to keep a sense of balance where your judgments are concerned. There is less time than you thought so do get a move on. However, that does not mean you should hurry to the point of lowering your standards. Be respectful.



**Libra**  
Sept 23 - Oct 22  
You will be on the nervous side and should do all you can to calm yourself. Something of secondary importance should not be allowed to get out of proportion. Avoid driving too long without a break. Be patient.



**Capricorn**  
Dec 23 - Jan 19  
Something that you had hoped would happen will not. Do not be too disappointed, there will be compensations. Make sure you get all the rest you need without becoming lethargic. Be less extravagant.



**Taurus**  
April 21 - May 20  
You will know how to adapt an existing procedure to new circumstances. You should have just a little more faith in yourself. You should not make a complicated situation more complex still. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 27.



**Leo**  
July 23 - Aug 21  
You should not trust to luck to get you out of financial trouble. You should not drink or smoke more than you know is good for your health. Try to keep things in proportion and avoid extremes and exaggerations. Be courteous.



**Scorpio**  
Oct 23 - Nov 21  
Avoid becoming a "backseat driver," you will only succeed in causing distractions. You would do well not to lose touch with an old friend who has moved home. Do not wait too long before replying to a letter. Be sincere.



**Aquarius**  
Jan 20 - Feb 19  
You will be able to deal with a complicated situation and will be able to avoid making matters worse. Make sure you are in time for an appointment, allow for traffic delays. Avoid making or exposing yourself to noise. Be accurate.



**Gemini**  
May 21 - June 20  
You will be able to put a new idea to good use. Others will not always agree with you but do try to avoid getting into an argument. Do not allow yourself to be motivated by resentment. Be true to your word.



**Virgo**  
Aug 23 - Sept 22  
Keep calm and think twice or more before you make up your mind. Make sure you are not living in the past and getting into set ways. However, also avoid doing things in a new way just for the sake of novelty. Be tolerant.



**Sagittarius**  
Nov 23 - Dec 20  
You will have to deal with something rather spiteful and should not try to react in the same key. You will be better able to make the right choice. Beware, a "sure" way of making money is not so sure, you could well lose more than you gain. Be polite.



**Pisces**  
Feb 20 - Mar 20  
You should not leave any door or window unlocked. If you have made a promise keep it without fail. Take just a little more time to violent and regular exercise. Be generous.



"I got a ticket for going the right way down a one-way street in reverse!"



"She's changed her nationality 14 times and still hasn't won anything."



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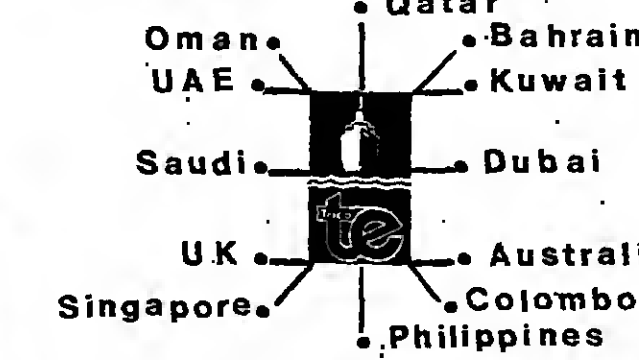
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## Mayotte overcomes Gilbert

"The problem when something is written in the papers about me is that I say a whole lot of things and people take out one line, make it a headline and then the whole country thinks I changed my mind," Becker explained.

"I didn't. I said I'm not going to play against Holland. That's all," he said.



Last week's straight-set loss to Lendl demonstrated Mayotte's shortcomings. A week second

the game," said Lendl, who won for the seventh time in their last eight meetings. "His second serve is not so penetrating and his

other way to get to the top. It's probably not a price he's willing to pay or can pay because of his family."

### Navratilova; thrashed Shriver

usual. She was just in a zone. I couldn't believe it. She was just in a zone. I couldn't believe it. She was just in a zone. I couldn't believe it.

## Kuwait Little League

trip and earned 2 RBIs. The many runs that scored came from the excellent base stealing of the boys.	Aslan Bengali Bashar Mardini Ridha Behbehani Bibi Al Ebrahim	Oricks Cubs Astros Astros
--	---	------------------------------------

## WBO title fight ends in confusion

Camara's record before the fight was 13-10.

## Iran could host Asian Games: Samaranch

celona, Spain in 1992 and to the Asian Games in Beijing

## Northern Districts make Kiwi history

### Man of the Match

Australia and Pakistan, wh

Aravinda de Silva b Alderman .....

Man of the Match: Dean Jones  
Crowd: 16,827

## Douglas plans only 2 fights

June

## Jones takes Australia past Sri Lanka

### Jones: Man of the Match

Australia and Pakistan, wh

Aravinda de Silva b Alderman .....

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  2. Name the player who scored the most goals in a single tournament?
  3. Who will win the Gulf Cup Tournament held in Kuwait 1990? .....

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## New York score easy win over Cleveland

NEW YORK, Feb. 18, (AP) Patrick Ewing scored 41 points, including six in a 16-2 run to start the extra period, as the New York Knicks beat Cleveland 119-108 last night for their ninth consecutive overtime victory.

New York is now 5-0 in overtime games this season and 9-0 since they lost at Boston on Nov. 4, 1988.

The Knicks improved their home record to 22-2 with their eighth victory in 10 games overall. The loss was only the second in the last five road games for the Cavaliers, who were led by Mark Price with 24 points, including four 3-pointers.

Charles Oakley had 18 points and 18 rebounds for New York, and Mark Jackson had a season-high 17 assists.

**Nuggets 128, Nets 117**  
Alex English scored 17 of his season-high 38 points in the third quarter, and Devoe handed New Jersey its 13th straight loss.

The 13 consecutive losses equal an NBA season-high this season, set earlier by the Miami Heat. It is only three short of the Nets' club record set in 1978.

The victory allowed Denver to snap a three-game losing streak and a run of seven straight road losses.

Ahead 61-59 at the half, the Nuggets outscored New Jersey 32-2 at the start of the third quarter. The victory was the first for the Nuggets since they lost to the Detroit Pistons in a franchise record 11th straight victory.

With the score tied at 66, the Pistons went on a 14-5 run that featured three jumpers by Johnson and three of Thomas' six fourth-quarter assists to put Detroit ahead 80-71 with 4:53 left in the game.

The Pistons scored 36 points in the fourth quarter, after managing only 61 in the first three quarters.

**Mavericks 135, Magic 108**  
Rolando Blackman and Roy Tarpley combined to hit all 11 of their first quarter shots as Dallas beat Orlando, Florida.

Blackman was 6-for-6 and Tarpley 5-for-5 in the opening quarter as the Mavericks matched their highest-scoring period of the season, outscoring the Magic 45-31.

**Results**  
Detroit 97 Miami 79  
Denver 126 New Jersey 117  
New York 119 Cleveland 108  
Dallas 135 Orlando 108  
San Antonio 104 Houston 103  
Utah 110 Sacramento 106



**Formula One skier**

Ferrari team Formula One driver and world champion Alain Prost of France in action during a ski competition in Sestriere, Italy, on Saturday evening. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Norman fights back for victory

MELBOURNE, Feb. 18, (Reuter). Greg Norman underlined his status as golf's world number one by outgunning world number two Nick Faldo of Britain to win his sixth Australian Masters title today.

Norman, defending the title, came from four shots behind with 12 holes to play to card a five-under-par 68 for a 19-under-par total of 273, equalling his own tournament record.

Faldo, seeking to overhaul Norman for the world's top spot, missed a series of vital putts in the final round and after three earlier sub-70 scores, he carded a 72 to finish joint second with American John Morse and Australian Mike Clayton, the first round leader.

US Open champion Curtis Strange, world ranked number four, closed a disappointing week with a 68 and took a share of 12th place seven shots behind Norman.

Norman showed his true mettle in his shootout with Faldo after he took a double bogey at the sixth hole.

Faldo, the reigning US and British Masters champion, appeared to have the title for the taking after Norman was forced to take a drop and then immediately hit an enormous wood off the fairway into trees.

But the Australian holed from a bunker for an eagle at the next and then birdied the eighth.

On the 14th Norman rolled in another birdie putt to join Faldo at 18 under par.

Another birdie at the 15th put him one stroke

## Rush stretches tally to 19 goals

# Oldham have sights on 'double'

LONDON, Feb. 18, (Reuter). Fans of Oldham Athletic have rarely been able to brag that their soccer club was the most successful in the Greater Manchester area — until this season.

As high-spending Manchester United and City struggle to avoid relegation from the First Division, their Second Division neighbours are going through a rare golden period.

They have had 96 years to prepare for their first Cup final and have not been in the First Division since 1923 but "The Latics" are still on course for an amazing Cup double — a feat no other Manchester team can hope for this season.

Unbeaten in 33 matches on their controversial artificial pitch at Boundary Park, they effectively secured their first Cup final appearance on Wednesday when they routed West Ham 6-0 in the first leg of their League Cup semifinal match.

To get that far they had already beaten champions Arsenal and First Division high-flyers Southampton.

And yesterday in the fifth round of the Football Association (FA) Cup they kept alive their hopes of a second trip to Wembley by holding last year's losing finalists Everton to a 2-2 draw after going two down in the first half.

Scotland striker Graeme Sharp hit home in the 22nd minute for Everton and former West Ham star Tooy Cottee seemed to have avenged his old club's

defeat four minutes later. But Oldham were down but not out. A 60th minute penalty gave striker Andie Ritchie his 25th goal of the season and then Roger Palmer made it 2-2 with a 66th minute header.

Everton manager Colin Harvey was full of praise: "We played really well for the first hour then we let it slip. Oldham took the initiative from us — we didn't give it away."

He added that he had been unhappy with the penalty decision. Oldham manager Joe Royle said he too had not seen the foul but his team had deserved one for an earlier incident.

Cottee, who last season scored twice in the last six minutes at Boundary Park to knock the hosts out of the League Cup, said Everton were happy with a replay on February 21.

"We're delighted to get them back to Goodison (Park) and we'll beat them there for sure," he said.

Holders Liverpool meanwhile secured their quarterfinal slot with a comfortable win at home to Southampton in the only all-First-Division Cup tie of the day, with Welsh striker Ian Rush stretching his tally to 19 goals this season.

Astoo Villa, like Liverpool, also remained on course for a League and Cup double by beating neighbours West Bromwich Albion 2-0 in their first FA Cup encounter for 33 years.

Centre-half Derek Mountfield



Rush (left) outpaces a Southampton defender during the match. (Reuter wirephoto)

put Villa ahead in the 24th minute to keep him on course for a fourth Cup final after three appearances at Wembley with his former club Everton.

Winger Tooy Daley ensured Villa's victory with a solo goal, running from the halfway line — in the 88th minute.

Alhio's disappointment was compounded by the loss of Gary Robson, the 24-year-old brother of injury-prone England captain

Bryan, who broke his right leg in the fourth minute.

Fourth Division Rochdale, in the fifth round for the first time, came close to an upset at First Division Crystal Palace but conceded their first goal of the tournament to lose 1-0.

### Standings

English and Scottish League soccer tables after yesterday's matches (tabulated under — played, won, drawn, lost, goals

English Division One	Points
Liverpool	26 14 8 4 50 26 50
Aston Villa	24 15 4 5 41 21 49
Arsenal	24 13 4 5 38 25 42
Nottingham Forest	25 11 7 7 38 25 40
Tottenham	25 11 6 8 38 31 39
Everton	25 12 5 7 34 31 38
Coventry	25 11 4 10 34 32 37
Chelsea	26 9 9 8 41 39 36
Derby	24 10 5 9 31 21 35
Southampton	24 9 8 7 44 41 35
Norwich	25 9 8 8 28 27 35
Wimbledon	25 7 11 7 28 28 32
QPR	24 7 9 8 26 28 30
Sheffield Wed	27 7 8 12 26 29
Crystal P	25 8 5 12 30 50 29
Manchester U	25 7 11 7 30 35 28
Manchester C	25 7 11 7 27 39 28
Luton	24 5 10 9 27 34 25
Millwall	26 5 9 12 32 45 24
Charlton	24 3 7 19 36 16

English Division Two	Points
Leeds	30 17 8 5 54 34 59
Sheffield U	29 15 10 4 44 30 55
Swindon	29 14 7 8 53 40 49
Oldham	29 12 11 6 42 34 47
Blackburn	30 11 13 6 53 44 46
Wolves	30 12 9 9 46 35 45
Sunderland	29 12 7 10 44 45 45
Newcastle	28 11 10 7 49 38 43
Ipswich	28 11 9 8 41 40 42
Port Vale	30 10 11 9 40 35 41
Oxford	30 12 12 6 43 38
West Ham	28 10 8 10 41 35 38
Bournemouth	29 10 8 11 46 48 38
Watford	29 9 12 36 37 35
Portsmouth	30 8 11 11 40 45 35
Leicester	29 9 8 12 39 47 35
West Brom	29 10 11 47 48 34
Millwall	29 9 13 36 42 34
Brighton	29 9 15 35 43 32
Plymouth	28 8 13 38 42 31
Hull	29 6 12 11 35 44 30
Bradford	30 12 12 13 43 38
Barnley	28 7 14 29 29 29
Stoke	30 5 11 14 25 47 26

Scottish Premier Division	Points
Rangers	27 16 7 4 37 14 39
Aberdeen	27 12 8 7 41 25 32
Hearts	27 12 7 8 45 31 31
Celtic	27 10 8 30 24 28
Motherwell	27 10 8 37 35 28
Dundee U	27 8 11 25 33 24
Hibernian	27 8 12 29 38 24
Dundee	27 8 12 22 42 22
St Mirren	27 3 9 15 31 55 15

## Chiefs cast doubt on Super League claims

LONDON, Feb. 18, (Reuter). European soccer's governing body UEFA and senior officials in Britain yesterday cast doubt on claims by a Scottish newspaper that a 16-team European Super League was planned to start next year.

Glen Kirtan, a spokesman for the English Football Association (FA), said: "I have heard nothing at all. And if things were at such an advanced state I'm sure we would have heard something."

The newspaper, Scotland on Sunday, said a secret agreement had been reached for the competition and a provisional fixture list for the 1991-92 season circulated among the clubs involved.

The newspaper named some of the 16 clubs as Liverpool, Arsenal and Glasgow Rangers from Britain, AC Milan and Napoli from Italy, Real Madrid of Spain, Bayern Munich of West Germany, Benfica of Portugal and Moscow Dynamo.

A UEFA spokesman said yesterday they knew nothing officially about a Super League "although there has been a lot of speculation on it."

"Any such approach should come from the clubs but from the football associations and we have received nothing from any such association," he said.

The newspaper said the driving force behind the Super League was AC Milan president Silvio Berlusconi, a television and media tycoon who it says was approached by Real Madrid and Bayern Munich.

It went on to say the competition would take the form of four groups of four teams, with the winners and runners-up from each group progressing to a second phase run in a similar format, with two teams meeting in a final.

The competition, starting in November 1991, would replace the UEFA Cup and be played on Wednesday nights but would still be controlled by UEFA, European soccer's governing body, the newspaper claimed.

Andy Williamson, a spokesman for the English Football League, said: "We're not aware of any serious discussion although it obviously has been mooted by several people both inside and outside the game. It would be a surprise if it was at such an advanced stage."

Berlusconi has been a strong advocate of the formation of a European Super League for many years and has set up and run several prestigious international pre-season tournaments in recent years.

He said in May last year that he hoped to create the fabric for the formation of a European League in readiness for a future date when it may be ratified by UEFA.

The newspaper said matches would be relayed by satellite television to dissuade fans from travelling.

Organisers hope this lack of away fans would persuade the authorities to allow Liverpool, banned like all English clubs, to play in Europe again.

The paper says the competition is expected to stage the first final at Wembley, England's national soccer stadium, in February 1992.

## Seven top teams out of French Cup

PARIS, Feb. 18, (Reuter). Seven First Division sides, including last year's finalists Monaco, bowed out in the first round of the French Soccer Cup.

Sochaux, third in the League, Paris Saint-Germain, who won the trophy in 1982 and 1983, Caen, Nice and Lyon lost to teams from lower divisions.

Striker Patrick Cubaynes hit a hat-trick as Second Division Avignon disposed of Monaco 3-2 on Friday night when Toulouse also lost 1-0 to Second Division. Avignon disposed of Monaco 3-2 on Friday night when Toulouse also lost 1-0 to Second Division.

The highest upset in the newly formatted Cup competition which has done away with two-legged ties, was Caen's 1-0 defeat by Third Division Ajaccio.

League leaders Bordeaux and Cup holders Marseille had an easy passage into the next round with 4-0 wins.

Bordeaux beat Amateurs Plabennec with goals from Jean-Marc Ferreri, who scored twice, Jean-Luc Dogon and Bernard Pardo.

Marseille, who ousted Second Division Tours, scored through France striker Jean-Pierre Papin, Brazilian defender Mozer and England's Chris Waddle.

**Results**

Toulouse	0	Ales	1
Monaco	2	Avignon	3
Montpellier	1	Isere	0
Racing Paris	3	Angers	0
Auxerre	1	Red Star	0
Nice	1	Nancy	2
Lyon	0	Nimes	1
Marseille	4	Tours	0
Sochaux	0	Strasbourg	0
Metz	6	Montceau	0
Lille	3	Reims	0
PSG	0	Valenciennes	1
Clermont	0	Angoulême	1
St Etienne	2	Angoulême	1
Cannes	1	Perpignan	1
(Cannes won on penalties after extra time)			
Nantes	2	Cholet	0
Toulon	4	Aix	2
Brest	4	Salernes	1
Mulhouse	2	Amneville	0
Bordeaux	4	Plabennec	0

## Bagyula wins pole vault

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Feb. 18, (Reuter). Istvan Bagyula, a Hungarian who attends George Mason University in Virginia, cleared 18-foot and half an inch (5.5 meters) to win the pole vault at the Cleveland Knights of Columbus Athletics meeting yesterday.

Lee McRae, the world record holder in the 55 and 60-metre dashes, finished only third in the 50-metre event with a time of 5.86 seconds. American Brian Cooper won it in 5.73 seconds compatriot Greg Moses was second at 5.74.

American record-holder Steve Scott won the mile in four minutes, 1.69 seconds, ahead of compatriot Terry Brahm who clocked 4:02.43. Ireland's Ray Flynn was third at 4:04.74.

Bagyula, 21, the Hungarian indoor and outdoor record holder in the pole vault, cleared the winning height on his first attempt. He missed on three attempts at 18 feet, four inches (5.6 meters).

"This is the first time that I had run on an all-wood runway," Bagyula said. "I was a little bit afraid of it at first."

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## SPORTS BRIEFS

## British soccer

LONDON, Feb 18, (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches today:

English Football Association Cup fifth round

Blackpool 2 QPR 2  
(Replay on Wednesday)

Newcastle 2 Manchester U. 3  
Sheffield U. 2 Barnsley 2  
(Replay on Wednesday)

English Division Two

Swindon 2 West Ham 2  
English Division Three

Bristol Rovers 2 Walsall 0  
Leyton Orient 0 Brentford 1

Draw for the quarter-finals of the FA Cup made today: Sheffield United or Barnsley v Manchester United, Oldham or Everton v Aston Villa, Bristol City or Cambridge United v Crystal Palace, Blackpool or Queens Park Rangers v Liverpool. Matches to be played on March 10.

## IOC chief

BAGHDAD, Feb 18, (Kuna): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein received today the president of the International Olympic Committee Antonio Samaranch and head of the Asian Olympic Council and President of Kuwaiti Olympic Council Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed. According to Radio Baghdad, Samaranch handed President Saddam Hussein a present expressing the International Olympic Committee's appreciation for his role in promoting peace and fraternity among various countries.

## Filipino wins

MANILA, Philippines, Feb 18, (AP): Robert Pactolin birdied two of the last four holes as he shot an even-par 72 today and won the Philippine Open by two strokes, becoming the first Filipino champion in the golf tournament in 10 years.

## Becker triumphs

BRUSSELS, Feb 18, (Reuters): Results of the final in the \$600,000 Belgian Indoor ATP Tennis Tournament today (premier number one seed) Andre Becker (West Germany) beat 2-Carl-Uwe Steeb (West Germany) 7-5 6-2 6-2.

## Romanian player

LONDON, Feb 18, (Reuters): Romanian Rugby Union international Christian Rucanu, who was granted political asylum while touring Scotland in December, has been officially invited to resume playing for his country.

## Egyptians draw

CAIRO, Feb 18, (Reuters): Egypt and South Korea drew 2-0 today in an international soccer friendly between two of the World Cup finalists.

## Carminati banned

EDINBURGH, Feb 18, (Reuters): Alain Carminati, the French forward sent off for stamping during yesterday's rugby union international in Scotland, has been suspended from the game until September 17.

## Betting verdict

LONDON, Feb 18, (Reuters): West Ham manager Lou Macari is to fight to clear his name after being fined and censured by the English Football Association (FA) for breaching FA rules on betting while he was in charge at Swindon. Macari announced today, when West Ham returned to his former club for a Second Division match, that he would appeal against last Monday's verdict and fine of £1,000.

## WBC president

MEXICO CITY, Feb 18, (AP): Jose Sulaiman, president of the World Boxing Council, has been hospitalized with inflammation of the pancreas, the official's wife said yesterday.

## Uday re-elected

BAGHDAD, Feb 18, (Reuters): President Saddam Hussein's son, Uday Hussein, was re-elected yesterday as chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee.

## Shield cricket

SYDNEY, Australia, Feb 18, (Reuters): New South Wales today scored a crushing 10 wicket victory over South Australia in the Sheffield Shield cricket match at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

## Poor streak

VALENCIA, Spain, Feb 18, (Reuters): Valencia, who three days ago were overwhelmed 4-0 at Sevilla, extended their poor streak in Spanish First Division soccer with a disappointing 1-1 draw at home against Athletic Bilbao last night.

## Atlantic Open

OPORTO, Portugal, Feb 18, (Reuters): American Ronald Stetten moved into a two-stroke lead after the third round of the \$340,000 Atlantic Open yesterday, scoring 70 on the back nine to finish with a 32.

## BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Hubera Centre Bridge Club game played on Saturday evening

N/S

1. Nahl Akel & Narendra Shah  
2. Aurora & Jaggi  
3. Lollo Murthwaite & Stanley Drexler

E/W

1. Mohammed Kaddoura & Kamal Aralch  
2. Dr Nam & Dr Reda  
3. Capi Saliman Ali & George Masoud

The Regency Bridge Club will be holding their end of the season tournament on Friday, Feb 23, at 3.00 pm at the Regency premises.

Results of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Feb 11:

1. Jaya Sapre & Clara Basiera  
2. H. Hughes & J. Wilde  
3. Nahl & Lollo Murthwaite

Results of the SAS Bridge Club game played yesterday:

1. Lollo Murthwaite & Nahl Akel  
2. Suzanne Catermole & Margaret Maynard  
3. Clara Basiera & Jaya Sapre

## Sanctions on S. Africa must remain intact: Ramsamy

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

THE Apartheid and Olympism Commission, that groups representatives of the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee, meets in Kuwait today to discuss sports relations with South Africa, but it is not likely to soften its stance on the ban of South Africa and its athletes from international sports events.

"Sanctions, and boycott in sports must remain intact," said Sam Ramsamy, head of the South African non-

racial Olympic committee.

Despite the release of Nelson Mandela and legalisation of the African National Congress he leads, the change in South Africa is far from complete and it was forced on President F.W. de Klerk, he stressed.

"We found an effective way of forcing the change, so why change the strategy now," Ramsamy said.

The commission's president Judge Keba Mbaye was reluctant to predict the members' mood on the question of possible reintegration of South Africa into international sports saying it could

go either way. Mbaye and Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president met last year Johan du Plessis, president of the (non-recognised) South African Olympic Committee.

Mbaye said the commission will hear the reports from Ramsamy and Fekrou Kidane of the Olympic Committee's apartheid commission on their meeting with Du Plessis in Paris in early January. This was among the first formal contacts between the IOC and South Africa since the racially divided nation was expelled from the Olympic Committee in 1970.

Ramsamy said at the time that the meeting was a preliminary discussion aimed at re-establishing links with South Africa, and that much work would have to be done before South African athletes were back in the Olympics.

Kidane told the Arab Times yesterday that no decision was to be taken in Kuwait on reinstatement of South Africa.

"It is too early to speculate on that, apartheid is still there," he said. He said Du Plessis sought their advice on how to set up non-racial sports in South

Africa. Ramsamy lashed out at Britain for its pro-South African attitude saying that it faced expulsion from the Commonwealth games if it "continues to make excuses for South Africa."

At the recent Commonwealth Games in Auckland, New Zealand, Britain was censured for not making its position clear, he said.

The current English cricket tour of South Africa has provoked violent protests in several South African cities. Today's meeting is the third of the Apartheid and Olympism Commission

set up in 1988 by IOC to help accelerate the downfall of apartheid.

The commission's appeal to all national Olympic committees to sever contacts with South Africa was largely answered. Last year it mandated that any athlete who enters a competition or plays in South Africa be automatically disqualified from the Olympics.

The commission begins work with a closed session this morning while the official opening by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch and Kuwait's Sheikh Fahd, president of the Asian Olympic Council, is set for 3 pm.

## Pakistan in semifinals

West Germany edge England

LAHORE, Pakistan, Feb 18, (Reuters): West Germany beat England 2-1 today to put themselves and hosts Pakistan into the semifinals of the men's hockey World Cup alongside European champions the Netherlands and holders Australia.

France had earlier sent the Netherlands and Australia through by beating Argentina, the only other side in contention in group A, 1-0 on a cold rainy morning in Lahore.

The win for West Germany, bronze medalists at the last World Cup, meant Pakistan were sure of a semifinal place before the two teams met in their last Group B match tomorrow.

England, the 1986 silver medalists and with several mem-

bers from the British team that won gold at 1988 Seoul Olympics, had the day's third match spoiled by a waterlogged pitch.

West Germany converted a penalty corner in each half through Carsten Fischer and Volker Fried. England fought hard but had to make do with a 61st minute goal by centre-half Soma Singh.

Argentina went down when Pascal Felix scored off a penalty corner in the 58th minute to put France third in Group A. It was France's first ever win against Argentina.

Canada's last chance of automatically qualifying for the next World Cup had disappeared earlier when Spain beat them 1-0 in Group B, the goal scored by Xavier Escude, younger brother

of the tournament's top scorer Ignacio, in the 51st minute.

Harassed Canadian goalkeeper Ken Goodwin hit the ball straight to Escude who hit it back under him and into the net.

Canada had to finish in the top six to qualify, but without a point from their four matches, are doomed to join Ireland and two others in the playoff for the last four places.

Australia later gained their fourth victory with a 3-2 win against former winners India, who came back into the match after going 3-0 behind in a seven-minute spell in the second half.

Sujit Kumar converted a penalty and Jude Felix scored in open play for India and Australian coach Frank Murray agreed his team had conceded a

couple of sloppy goals.

He said they would prefer to play Pakistan to West Germany in the next round. The line-up will be decided after the final group matches are played tomorrow.

England must play off for the fifth to eighth places against Spain, France and the Soviet Union or Argentina.

Standings	
Pool A	
Australia	4 4 0 0 13 4 8
Holland	4 3 1 0 15 9 7
France	5 2 1 2 5 6 5
Argentina	4 1 1 2 9 11 3
Soviet Union	4 0 2 2 3 9 2
India	5 0 1 4 10 16 1
Pool B	
W. Germany	4 4 0 0 12 2 8
Pakistan	4 3 1 0 10 5 7
Spain	5 3 0 2 10 10 6
England	5 2 1 2 7 7 5
Canada	4 0 0 4 1 8 0
Ireland	4 0 0 4 2 10 0



Riot police fire plastic bullets at fans. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Protestant, Catholic fans riot in N. Ireland

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Feb 18, (AP): Rival Protestant and Roman Catholic soccer fans rioted in a heavily policed stadium yesterday, and police said they fired plastic bullets into the stands to subdue the rioters.

The violence spilled into surrounding streets, and fans hijacked four buses and set them on fire, a statement from the Royal Ulster Constabulary said.

Forty-eight police and 15 civilians were injured and one officer and one civilian hospitalized, police said.

Later yesterday, police said three soldiers were slightly injured when a bomb blasted their vehicle on patrol in south-west Belfast.

A second bomb exploded 10

minutes later at a hotel in the western part of the city, after an anonymous warning which allowed police to evacuate the building before the blast. No injuries were reported at the hotel.

The violence at the stadium was the worst for years at soccer games in Northern Ireland. Sports events are usually free of the fighting between Protestants and the Roman Catholic minority that has afflicted other areas of life in the British province.

Security forces had feared trouble at the game, a first-round match in the Bass Irish Cup competition, so the game was delayed 25 minutes on police orders until the rival fans were in the ground and settled.

## Monroes triumph in big match

THE biggest Mouchel Monday Darts League fixture of the season was narrowly won by Monroes as they took a massive step towards de-throning league champions for the last two years Baggis.

After a nervous start by both teams, Monroes' finally drew first blood to run up a 2-0 lead. With their backs to the wall, Baggis' substitute Rod Parr hit 140 in 3 high scores in beating the opposition's captain Keith Chandler who also got a 140. Mohd Al Qabandi furthered their recovery in a close 2-1 result with Allan Anderson.

Having fought back to a 2-2 score after the singles, Baggis finally ran out of steam as Erik Christensen and Ed Madala led their respective partners to two Mickey Mouse victories for Monroes. With 2 games left, Monroes need only consolidate their two point lead to claim the title for the first time.

Campanologos virtually assured themselves of a top 3 placing by disposing of Stars of the Yeast with a return to their favourite 5-1 scoreline. Ian Thomas had a 140 in 5 high scores, and John Watson moved closer to Erik Christensen for the lead in the most number of high scores trophy with another 140 in 4 100 plus shots.

Cottar Hooes are the only side who could pip them, but then only if the rope pullers lost their remaining 3 games. Last week's dropped point at home to TCF is thus unlikely to prove vital, especially as this week's fixture takes them to the Monroes house of pain.

TCF's Dave Wakefield squeaked in his first 140 of the season, and Graham McLymont had 3 100's but the main star of the night was Hilary Milne who had the best ladies' finish to date with a 78 completion, to keep Cottar Hooes ladies on target for a 3rd place. Their 3-1 success was the first Monday Ladies game not to end in a draw for 3 weeks.

Brahms & Lutz started clearing their backlog of matches drawing with Exiles and losing to Ragamuffins. Dave Robinson and Brian Bond had 140's, Steward Skelhorn adding 4 high scores, before Featherlights kept their sights on the ladies title by tearing apart Ragamuffins. Ragamuffins other game saw a 6-0 pounding by Tyne Tees, and a 140 for Dave Bosworth, as they prepare for Baggis this week. Another 2 Mickey Mouse trebles by Starlet Barbara Marks has her 2 high scores clear of the pack for the ladies scoring trophy.

## AC Milan stay on top

ROME, Feb 18, (Reuters): Diego Maradona converted two penalties to help Napoli beat Roma 3-1 today but European champions AC Milan remained top of the Italian First Division on goal difference after a 2-1 victory over lowly Cremonese.

Napoli, smarting from two resounding defeats by Milan last week which ousted them from the top of the table and ended their interest in the Italian Cup, got off to a bad start.

Sebastiano Nela put Roma ahead from a powerful free kick in the fourth minute.

It was not until early in the second half, following the dismissal of Roma defender Stefano Pellegrini, that Napoli took charge.

Three crunching fouls on the

Argentine World Cup captain earned Pellegrini a red card. Maradona's first goal in the 55th minute — his 100th for Napoli since joining the club in 1984 — followed a foul on Massimo Crippa as he appeared certain to score.

Six minutes later Brazilian forward Careca put Napoli 2-1 ahead with a tightly angled shot that went in off the far post.

A foul on Careca in the 72nd minute earned the Naples side their second penalty and Maradona stepped up once more to do the honours.

At the same moment in Milan, European Footballer of the Year Marco van Basten was heading AC Milan's second goal to take his tally for the season to 16. Daniele Massaro had given them

the lead in the 17th minute.

Milan, playing without flu-hit libero Franco Baresi and injured winger Roberto Donadoni, were always too accomplished for Cremonese, but they lacked their usual sparkle and the visitors managed to pull back a goal through Argentine Gustavo Dezotti six minutes from time.

The result left Milan and Napoli level on 38 points from 25 matches, with their nearest challengers five points adrift.

Results	
Atalanta	1
Bari	0
Bologna	2
Florentina	0
Genoa	0
Verona	0
Lazio	0
AC Milan	2
Napoli	3
Juventus	2
Inter	1
Ascoli	0
Lecco	0
Udinese	0
Sampdoria	0
Cesena	0
Cremonese	1
Roma	1

## Senna case may be re-opened

PARIS, Feb 18, (UPI): The Ayrton Senna affair that appeared to have been closed Friday was reopened yesterday as the president of the International Automobile Sport Federation hinted the Brazilian Formula One driver might not be permitted to race in 1990 after all.

Senna appeared to have settled his longstanding feud with Fisa on Friday, when the Federation announced the 1988 world champion would be granted a super-license for the upcoming season.

The announcement climaxed months of wrangling between Senna and Fisa president Jean-Marie Balestre.

But today, Balestre said in a statement issued to Agence France-Press that Senna had apparently violated an agreement to make no statement to the press that might conflict with Friday's official Fisa communiqué.

## England only one game away from Grand Slam

LONDON, Feb 18, (Reuters): England and Scotland set up a momentous clash at Murrayfield in a month's time with crushing defeats of Wales and France respectively yesterday in the Five Nations Rugby Union Championship.

England handed Wales their biggest ever defeat in the championship, scoring four tries to one in a 34-6 victory at Twickenham.

Scotland took full advantage of Alain Carminati's dismissal from the field for stamping to beat France 21-0, their sixth successive win over the French at Murrayfield.

Both sides are unbeaten with England only one game away from their first Grand Slam since 1980. The Scots have two games to play, the first against Wales in Cardiff.

England's performance was majestic. They dominated an inexperienced Welsh side in every facet of the game and forward coach Roger Uttley later said that it was the best performance he had ever seen from an England side.

Uttley's words carry more weight than most. The rugged Englishman, one of the best loose forwards of his era, was an integral part of the 1974 British Lions side who beat

South Africa and an equally important member of the 1980 England Grand Slam side.

"The 1980 team would have had great difficulty in living with this one," Uttley enthused. "This team has a stamp of greatness about it that hasn't yet been realised."

Rory Underwood, who became the most capped English back ever in his 37th international, was the most prominent English success story with two tries, including a spectacular 75-metre effort in the second half.

"I'm proud to set another record but the team performance is what matters most," the dynamic leftwing said. "The Grand Slam would give me just as much of a thrill as any I have experienced with the British Lions."

Coach Geoff Cooke, while insisting that his side had to learn to be more ruthless, took the opportunity to look forward to next year's World Cup.

"We are not yet as good as New Zealand," he said. "But we can be on a par with them in time for the World Cup."

In Edinburgh, France's decline continued after Carminati was sent from the field by referee Fred Howard after twice stamping on John Jeffrey's face. "I thought when the referee



Jean-Marc Charnat of France reaches for the ball after it's missed by Scotland's David Sole. (Reuters wirephoto)

was saying 'off, off' that it was a Scotsman being sent off," Carminati said. "I was really surprised when he said it was me but I wasn't going to argue."

French coach Jacques Fouroux was far from impressed with Carminati's explanation and blamed the big Bezzers flanker for the 1989 champions' second successive defeat.

Howard, who sent Welsh forward Kevin Moseley off in the opening championship match against France for a similar

offence, had no option after warning Scotland for the same misdemeanour in the game's opening minute.

When Carminati left in the 48th minute, France trailed the Scots by only three points but their revamped side had been playing with little conviction.

Sadly Serge Blanco, their match-winning fullback for the past decade, was one of the weaker links, showing a woeful lack of resolution under the high ball.



Henri Senz (left) of France tends to Scotland's Iwan Tukalo. (Reuters wirephoto)

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